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Newsletter No 5 2025-2026


Dear Parents/ Carers,


Message from the Head Teacher


It is so lovely to be back and see how well the returning children settled back into Nursery routines and expectations. The new starters are also settling very well too- welcome to Westfield. Thank you for such a wonderful response to our reading event. Please remember to come and borrow books from our book castle or library as often as you like- we just ask the books are returned.





Our learning

Bumblees children started the term focussing on first key words, learning hello, goodbye, book and sit. The key text was 'Rabbit's Nap.' Children were building with Duplo, using block paints and riding bikes outside. The next theme was also keywords and these included yes, no, car and baby. The key text was 'Wonky Donkey.' Learning was based around using cars and guttering outside and babies and playdough inside. Now the theme is body parts. Here the key words are hand, foot, head and mouth. The key text is 'Look at Me.' Children are making faces with found materials in the sand, painting hand and foot prints and enjoying the doctors role play. 

In Dragonflies the children started the term learning about people who help us. Key words included doctor, dentist, nurse, police officer and fire fighter. The key text was 'Doctor.' Children enjoyed role playing doctors in a hospital and building the hospital and firestation Duplo. The children then learnt about staying healthy. The key text was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' The key words were exercise, clean, muscles, bones as well as healthy and unhealthy food. Children made toast and fruit kebabs. They studied and drew fruit and vegetables. Now the children are learning about shape and pattern. The key words are circle, square, triangle and oblong. The key text is 'Patterns.' The children are making play dough shapes, playing shape lotto and making patterns in sand and with the pegboards. 

Ladybirds class started the term learning about staying healthy. The key text was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' The key words were fruit, vegetables, sleep, brushing teeth and exercise. The children tasted fruit linked to the 'Handa's Surprise' storybook, created paintings printing with fruit and vegetables and did yoga and dancing. The next theme was shape and pattern. The key text was 'Patterns,' and the key words were circle, square, triangle and oblong. Children made shapes and patterns in the sand and created models with recycled materials. The children are now learning about people who help us. The key words are fire service, police, ambulance and 999. The key text is 'Emergency Services.' The children are building with the fire service and hospital Duplo and role playing emergency services. 

Caterpillars class started by ensuring all the children settled well. The first theme was learning about transport and vehicles. The key text was 'The Train Ride,' and the key vocabulary included aeroplane, bus, boat and car. The children used boats in water, made a train set with the Brio as well as using the cars and garage. The children are now learning about staying healthy. The key text is 'Alan's Big Scary Teeth,' and the keywords are healthy and unhealthy food, exercise and sleep. Children are practising brushing teeth, role playing buying fruit and vegetables at the grocery store and doing yoga. 

In Butterflies the children started the term learning about shape and pattern. The key text was 'The Circle,' and the key words were square, oblong, triangle, circle and pattern. The children played shape lotto, drew around shapes and made patterns using the peg boards. Next the children learnt about people who help us. They read the key text 'Going to the Dentist,' and learnt dentist, doctor, nurse, firefighter, police and vets. Children enjoyed the vets role play, brushing teeth and completing police puzzles. Now the children are learning about staying healthy. The key text is 'Peace at Last,' and the key words include healthy, unhealthy, fruit, vegetables, sleep, exercise and clean. The children are playing a healthy eating game, sorting fruits and vegetables and doing yoga. 

What a lot of learning!

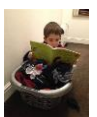
Recommended Read

Try reading 'The Three Little Pigs.' This traditional tale also introduces some Maths such as numbers to three. Try using different voices for the pigs and the wolf!



Home Learning

Each half term we send home a home learning challenge. These are activities for you to enjoy with your child. They support learning and, also help your child get into good homework practices. This half term the home learning challenge is a reading based challenge. Please see the attached sheet.



Ages and Stages of Development

Did you know...

By the age of two children should be using up to **50** or more single words e.g. 'no', 'book', 'biscuit'

By age three children should be using up to **300** words (Taken from 'Universally Speaking- the ages and stages of children's communication development from birth to 5')

If you are worried about your child visit <https://childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk/how-to-refer/>

Children should stop using a dummy during the daytime between **3-4 months old** and at night time around 12 months of age. Problems of prolonged use of a dummy include being less able to communicate, speech may become unclear, tooth growth may be affected. (www.goodtoknow.co.uk/ www.supernanny.co.uk)

Children should not be using a bottle **after 18 months of age**. Problems of prolonged bottle use include weight gain and tooth decay. (American Academy of Paediatrics)

Most children will be ready to toilet train between **18 months and 3 years of age**. Use our potty training guide on the website to support potty training.

Usually children will want to bin the buggy between **2 and 3 years of age**.

Prolonged use of the buggy can lead to problems of obesity and lack of exercise. There is an important lesson in young children learning to hold hands and cross roads safely.

(www.theworkingparent.com) (We do know some of our families walk a very long way to get to Nursery and in this case a buggy may be necessary!)

Children aged **2 to 5 years of age** should be having no more than 1 hour of screen time in 24 hours. (www.nhs.uk)

Children **3-4 years** of age should be physically active for at least 180 minutes a day with at least 60 minutes moderate to vigorous activity. (www.nhs.uk)

Children **3-4 years of age** should be getting 10-13 hours of good quality sleep. (www.nhs.uk)

Children should move onto solid foods at **six months** of age, progress to a variety of textures. (www.nhs.uk) .

To encourage a good variety in your child's diet

-give new foods from time to time

-make meal time positive

-strive to provide a range of foods

<https://feedingbytes.com/>

Toilet Training Advice- When to start toilet training

Every child's development is unique. Some children can be toilet trained earlier and faster than others. It is important to support children to learn at their own pace. NHS guidance explains that most children are ready to begin toilet training from around 18 months to 2 years. Starting toilet training after 2 and a half to 3 years can make it harder for some children to learn this new skill. Read more at [Help for early years providers : Toilet training](#)

We also have our own leaflet available in the entrance hall.

Child Development

If you are worried about any aspects of your child's development contact your health visitor.

The Health SPA 0-19 Single point of access telephone number is 0300 555 0606 and the email is

ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net

Reading Event

Thank you so much for attending our reading event on Wednesday 4th February. Thanks to those staff who set it up. The children really enjoyed having their grown up at Nursery and reading stories together. There are some lovely photos in the library area with comments by the children.

School Readiness (Taken from the 'Starting School' leaflet on the website.)

There are certain skills which will support your child in being ready for their life at school.

Can your child open and enjoy a book?

Children need to have access to books and enjoy listening to stories as soon as they are born! Children who are used to listening to you read to them and enjoy books do better academically, have better language and communication skills, can concentrate better and get the benefit of enjoyment! Books make great presents too. Different stories can be borrowed from the library.

New Resources

We have some lovely new resources at Nursery including musical instruments and balance bikes- these will really benefit the children's learning and development.

New Starter Questionnaires

If your child started in January, please remember to complete and return the new starter questionnaire by Thursday 12th February, thank you.



Monitoring Feedback

Our inclusion governor visited twice in the Autumn term looking at our Special Educational Needs Provision. She reports the following strengths

- Strong leadership and clear SENCo role embedded within the senior team.
- Clear systems in place for early identification and assessment of SEND.
- Well-established graduated approach to provision and review.
- Positive parental engagement and clear communication channels.
- Effective monitoring of attendance and tailored interventions.
- Commitment to inclusive practice.

We will now start working on the identified areas for future work.

Our Safeguarding link governor completed two visits and undertook a safeguarding audit. She reported 'I have conducted a full safeguarding audit, and this did not show up any areas for concern; I was able to make suggestions for further improvement in some respects, but otherwise this is compliant and is in line with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE 2025). Pupils and staff were seen on the visit and general activities were all in line with keeping pupils safe. The school delivers a curriculum that meets these needs and, in some cases, goes beyond what is expected.

We also had a monitoring visit from our Health and Safety link governor. She was very happy with the site improvements.



Drop Off Times

Please remember the morning drop off is from 8.45-8.55am every day. We have a lot of children arriving late. This means your child isn't getting the most from their time with us and it also causes a lot of disruption. Please get into good school ready habits!



Pre-existing Injuries

If your child comes to school with a bruise or another mark, please ensure you complete a pre-existing injuries form as you drop them off. Thank you.



Parking

It is important that we consider the safety of children and our neighbours when parking. Please see the attached letter from the Central Bedfordshire Road Safety Education Team.



Toddler Group Reminder

We hold a community toddler group every Monday from 1.00-2.30pm term time only.



Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week runs from 9th-15th February. Please click the link to find out more https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/253/parents_and_carers_mental_health_support
At Nursery we do monitor children's well-being and involvement, and we will always talk to you if we have any worries. If you have worries, please share them with us so we can work together.



Half Term Fun at Dunstable Library

Half term scavenger hunt: Saturday 14th February – Sunday 22nd February. Find the hidden items in the library and enter our prize draw!

- Valentine's heart craft: Saturday 14th February
 - Butterfly craft: Monday 16th February
 - Chinese New Year craft: Tuesday 17th February
 - Heart Snail craft: Wednesday 18th February
 - Make a heart Minion craft: Thursday 19th February
 - Dotty heart dog craft: Friday 20th February
- Contact the library to find out more

Children's Centre

Please don't forget the children's centre is open when we are closed for half term.



Key Dates this Term

- Monday 9th February** - Bumblebees Consultations
- Tuesday 10th February** - Dragonflies Consultations
- Tuesday 10th February** - Safer Internet Day (Children only)
- Wednesday 11th February** - Ladybirds Consultations
- Thursday 12th February** - Caterpillars Consultations
- Friday 13th February** - Butterflies Consultations
- Monday 16th February- Friday 20th February** – HALF TERM, NURSERY CLOSED
- Thursday 5th March**. World Book Day (children only)
- Monday 9th- Friday 13th March**. British Science Week (Children only) details to follow
- Thursday 12th March**. MADGE Stay and play day
- Friday 20th March**. World Poetry Day (children only) details to follow
- Monday 23rd March**. Last toddler group of the term
- Friday 27th March**. Last day of Spring term
- Monday 30th March-Monday 13th April** Nursery Closed- Easter holidays
- Tuesday 14th April**. First Day of Summer term



Bird Flu Advice

The following advice has been shared with Nursery- please be mindful of it over half term.

- Keep to footpaths
- Keep dogs on leads
- Do not pick up or touch any sick or dead birds
- Do not touch wild bird feathers or surfaces contaminated with wild bird droppings
- If contact has been unavoidable take sensible hygiene precautions like washing hands and cleaning footwear; this is particularly important if you keep birds at home.

If you find any dead wild birds, please report them to DEFRA online at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-dead-wild-birds> or by calling 03459 33 55 77.

Faith Celebrations in February

February 2nd – Christian: Candlemas: Commemorates the presentation of Jesus at the temple.

February 15th – Buddhist: Parinirvana: Marks the death of Buddha and his attainment of final Nirvana.

February 15th – Hindu: Maha Shivaratri: A major Hindu festival celebrating Lord Shiva.

February 18th – Christian: Ash Wednesday: Marks the beginning of Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

February 19th – Islamic: Ramadan begins: A holy month of fasting, prayer, and reflection for Muslims.

(<https://www.diversityresources.com/interfaith-calendar-2026/>)