

Newsletter No 3 2025-2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

Thank you for your generosity with healthy snack donations- these are really appreciated and help give the children energy to work through a busy Nursery session.

Thanks to those of you who donated gifts for the Salvation Army- we are happy to have been able to make a contribution to local families in need. Thank you to those families who donated to Children in Need.

Thank you to those who have purchased toys- this money is being used to buy phonics resources.

We appreciate your on-going support.



Governors

I would like to welcome Matthew Humprey, parent to our governing body. We now have a full compliment of governors. Both subcommittees, School Improvement and Resources, and the full governing body have met this month. Focus for the committee meetings has been reviewing the new Ofsted framework as well as completing the annual work schedule. The full governing body meeting heard updates from the subcommittees and scrutinised the Head teacher's report. We have had governors visits from the link governor for safeguarding who complete an audit and the link governor for inclusion who has been gathering information on the work we do to support children with additional needs.

Our learning

In Bumblebees children were focussing on handwashing. The key text was 'Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands.' The key words included tap, water, soap and towel. Children enjoyed washing babies and making bubble paintings. Now the children are starting to think about emotions. The key text is colour monster. The key words are happy, sad and angry. Children are sorting colours and using mirrors and rice trays to make different emotions.



In Dragonflies class the children were learning about colour. They focussed on the key text 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear.' The key words included red, yellow, blue, green, purple, orange, black and white. The children enjoyed painting the colour monster, using pegs and cotton wool balls, making an Elmer collage and colour sorting. The children are now starting to think about Christmas. The key text is Mog's Christmas. The key words include Father Christmas, card, Jesus and present. Children are decorating the Christmas tree and making Christmas hats.



In Ladybirds class the children were learning about colour. The Key text was 'Rabbit's Colour Book.' The key words were red, yellow, blue, green, purple and orange. The children learnt about colour mixing and colour sorting. Now the children are starting to learn about Christmas. The key text is 'The Christmas Story.' The key words are Christmas, Jesus, celebration and presents. The children are making decorations such as paper chains and stars.



In Caterpillars class the children were learning about their families. The key text was 'I have two Daddies and I love my Mummy.' The keywords were Dad, Mum, Step Dad, Step Mum, Grandfather and Grandmother. Children were drawing their families and their family trees. Now the children are learning about the weather. The key text is 'PB Bear Fly Away Kite.' The key words are wind, rain, snow, cold, storm, sun and hot. The children made kits and enjoyed talking about weather in the weather station role play.



Butterflies children were learning about colour. The key text was 'Elmer and Rose.' The key words were red, yellow, blue, green, purple, orange, black and white. Children sorted colours and used colour to create an Elmer collage. Now the children are starting to think about Christmas. The key text is 'We are Going on an Elf Hunt.' The key words are Christmas, Jesus, card and present. The children are making cards and playing Christmas snap.



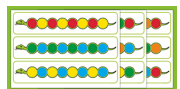
Consultations

Thanks to those parents and carers who came to consultation appointments. This is a really good opportunity for you to tell us about what your child is doing at home. You can find out more about how your child is doing at Nursery, what they like to do and who they like to do it with. We can also talk about next steps. This is a great way for you to feel more informed.



Home Learning

When your child starts school you will receive a lot of homework - it is a really good idea to get into good habits- you can do this by completing our half term home learning challenges! This half term the home learning challenge is Pattern. We are asking the children to find and make some patterns. This is a really good support for their Maths learning. See the home learning challenge attached.



-Begins to arrange items in their own patterns (18-24 months)

-Recognises two objects have the same shape, size (24-36 months)

-Creates their own spatial patterns, showing some organisation or regularity; Explores and adds to simple linear patterns of two or three repeating items, e.g., AB, ABC (36-48 months)

-Chooses objects to create and recreate repeating patterns beyond AB patterns and begins to identify the unit of repeat; notices and corrects an error in a repeating pattern (48-60 months)

Please don't forget to take a photo and send it into class.

Friendship Day

Friendship day (10th November) is the way we mark anti-bullying week at Nursery. We used the day to reinforce our key messages 'kind hands, kind feet and kind words.' We see children's friendships blossom at Nursery. Monitoring shows our children's behaviour is very good and relationships are very positive. There are occasional incidents between our young children but staff use conflict resolution to support any altercations. This gives children the tools they need to negotiate their own problems as they get older.

The 6 Steps of Conflict Resolution used by adults are:

1. Stop any hurtful actions & approach calmly
2. Talk to each child about their feelings
3. Offer help by gathering information
4. Neutralize the problem by restating it
5. Everyone shares their ideas and let the children decide on a solution
6. Support and follow up with the children



Recently I talked to some of the children about friends. All the children said they had friends and could say what they like do with their friends. They also told me their friends are kind. If children see someone sad at Nursery they have a variety of strategies to help including telling Mummy, telling the teacher, cuddling them and playing with them.

Individual Photographs

If your child attended Nursery on Wednesday 12th November, they will have had their photograph taken and you should have received the proof. Contact the photographer directly to order what you need.



MacMillan

We raised £164.78- thanks for you kind generosity.



Children in Need

Thank you for the Children in Need donations on children in Need day on Friday 14th November. We collected £43.10. It was lovely to see children in Pudsey related gear. Children enjoyed some spotty and Pudsey related activities.



Nursery Rhyme Day

On Nursery Rhyme Day, on Monday 17th November, we sang Nursery rhymes throughout the day! Did you know there are many benefits to learning Nursery rhymes including supporting children's communication and language, literacy and Maths development? Meme Fox states 'Experts in Literacy and Child Development have discovered that if children know 8 nursery rhymes by the time they are 4 years old, they are usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.' Read more...



<https://growingtogetherearlyyears.co.uk/blog/world-nursery-rhyme-week>

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/power-of-nursery-rhymes-early-communication-maths-and-self-regulation>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/articles/zdsyf82>

The rhymes for this year were Humpty Dumpty, I Hear Thunder, Sing a Song of Sixpence, Two Little Dickie Birds and When I Was One. See the lyrics below...

Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the king's horses and all the king's men,
Couldn't put Humpty together again.



I Hear Thunder

I hear thunder, I hear thunder
Hark don't you, hark don't you
Pitter patter raindrops, pitter patter raindrops
I'm wet through, so are you!



Two Little Dickie Birds

Two little dickie birds sitting on a wall,
One named Peter, one named Paul.
Fly away Peter! Fly away Paul!
Come back Peter! Come back Paul!



Sing a Song of Sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye.
Four and twenty blackbirds,
Baked in a pie.
When the pie was opened,
The birds began to sing-
Wasn't that a dainty dish,
To set before the king.
The king was in his counting house,
Counting out his money-
The queen was in the parlour,
Eating bread and honey.
The maid was in the garden,
Hanging out the clothes,
When down came a blackbird
And pecked off her



When I Was One

When I was one I sucked my thumb,
The day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard the pirate ship
And the captain said to me –
*We're going this way, that way,
Forwards and backwards,
Over the Irish sea.
A bottle of milk to fill my tum
And that's the life for me.*
When I was two I lost my shoe,
The day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard the pirate ship
And the captain said to me –
Chorus



When I was three I climbed a tree...

The day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard the pirate ship
And the captain said to me –
Chorus
When I was four I knocked on the door,
The day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard the pirate ship
And the captain said to me –
Chorus
When I was five I learned to dive,
The day I went to sea.
I jumped aboard the pirate ship
And the captain said to me –
Chorus

Stay and Play Day

It was wonderful to see so many grown ups attending our stay and play day on Wednesday 19th November- thank you for coming. It was a challenging day with the snow but what a wonderful memory. This was a great way for you to see what we do at Nursery and how we learn through the interactions and play. There are photos in the library area if you would like to come in and see them. We had a range of leaflets and information available on the day- these are all still available in the entrance hall.



Beep Beep Day

It is so important children learn key road safety messages from a young age. On Beep Beep day, Friday 21st November, we explained how to 'stop, look, listen and think.' We used the ride on toys and zebra crossing to support this message. Our young children need to understand to hold their grown ups hand by busy roads and when crossing the road. They need to learn to look for safe places to cross such as a zebra crossing. Please reinforce these messages as you travel to and from Nursery.



Recommended Read

Try reading 'Look out on the Road' by Claire Llewellyn. This book covers basic road safety concepts, a really good book to share to help your little one understand how to be safe near roads.



Library

Now the weather is getting worse it is harder for us to put the book castle outside. Please come into Nursery to borrow books from the library - come in via the office - remember you can come in everyday if you wish!

We have fiction and non-fiction books. We have dual language books, number and alphabet books, rhyming books, rhymes and poetry books and books to support personal development.



Toy Sale

My thanks to Miss Sharp and Mrs Bridges for their help with the toy stall. Thanks to everyone who purchased something. The money will be used for new phonics resources.



Christmas Raffle

Tickets have been on sale, and are still available for our Christmas Raffle. There are a range of wonderful prizes including a hamper provided by staff as first prize. There are also candles, toiletries and toys to win- purchase you tickets from the front of school or the office while you can. They are £1 for a strip of five tickets.



Coat and Winter Items Sale

Please don't forget our coat and winter clothes sale on Thursday 4th December. Cash only. Thanks to Ms Gee our community governor for helping organising this.



Christmas Decorations

The Nursery looks wonderful with a range of decorations and lights. The children have put decorations on the trees in their classrooms, the entrance hall and car park- great job to those who helped.



Christmas Cards

If your child wants to send a Christmas card to their friends, there is a post box in the entrance hall. They need to write the name of their friend and the class on the envelope. Children will collect and deliver the cards each day.



School Readiness

Taken from our starting school leaflet (available on the website).

Is your child aware of other children?

Can they play alongside others? This could be siblings or other family members, but children also benefit from playing and interacting with children of their own age. Toddler groups, music groups, gymnastics, swimming or other groups are perfect at encouraging such interactions.



Health and Safety Reminder

Please remember not to use your mobile phone on site. There are lots of signs on the pedestrian path but I am still needing to ask lots of people to put phones away.



If someone different is collecting your child please let us know in advance, don't forget we use a password system.

Attendance

Regular attendance is important as it supports children's learning and well being. It also helps children prepare for school. Because our children are so little and are still building their immunity we have certain procedures in place. If you have administered Calpol please keep your child at home. Calpol masks symptoms and if they need Calpol they are not well enough to attend. If your child has diarrhoea please keep them at home for 48 hours so this does not spread. If your child has an infectious illness please let us know so we can let other families know.

Starting School Reminder

Was your child born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022? They will start school in September 2026, so you need to apply for a school place by 15th January 2026. It is better to do this before Christmas so you don't forget. Lots of schools are holding open days so please go and look around to find the right school for your child. Apply online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions See the poster attached.



Toddler Group Reminder

This is open to all families with under-fives and is held on Monday afternoons from 1.00-2.30pm. Toddler Group is term time only. Entry is via the Bumblebees door.



Faith Celebrations this November

1st November: Christianity- 'All Saints Day' to honour all saints.

5th November: Hinduism- Kartik Purinma. On this day, the gods and goddesses descend on earth and bless the people with happiness and prosperity. People bathe in rivers, prepare special food known as 'Annakuta' which is offered to the gods in temples and people donate to charity or perform good deeds during this time.

5th November: Sikhism: Birthday of Guru Nanak. Sikhs gather at the gurdwara for hymn-singing and share the meal. The gurdwara may be illuminated and street processions take place too.

Key Dates this Term

Week beginning Monday 1st December- Christmas Stall/ Raffle- details to follow

Wednesday 10th December- Christmas Party Day & Christmas jumper/ outfit day (children only) - details to follow

Tuesday 16th December- Christmas Singing Event 10.00am 3–4-year-olds parents/ carers invited- details to follow

Tuesday 16th December- Christmas Singing Event 11.15am or 3.00pm 2-year-olds parents/ carers invited- details to follow

Thursday 18th December- Last Day of Autumn Term

19.12.25-05.01.26- Nursery closed

2025-2026 School Holiday Dates

19.12.25-05.01.26 Christmas Holiday School closed

16.02.26-20.02.26 Spring Half Term School closed

30.03.26-13.04.26 Easter Holiday School closed

04.05.26 Bank Holiday School closed

25.05.26-29.05.26 Summer Half Term School closed

20.07.26 Last day of Summer Term

21.07.24 School closed

