

Newsletter No 2 2025-2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

What a busy half term!

Children have settled really well and now separate happily from their parents/ carers to come in and see their friends and learn. We have started introducing our learning themes which identify key text, key vocabulary and some of the learning activities. You can find out what each class has been learning by reading these newsletters and by looking at the white boards. Please have a safe half term.



Dunstable in Bloom

I am very excited to tell you we won best school (jointly) at the recent Dunstable in Bloom awards.

The theme this year was 'Growing Together on Life's Journey.' We had planters, wheelbarrows and our planting beds. We themed our entry around 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as this was a simple way to portray a life cycle for our young children. Congratulations to Miss Shaw who led the work in school and all the children and staff who supported the work undertaken.



Staffing

I would like to welcome Mrs Chira to the team- she is supporting in Dragonflies every morning and Bumblebees every afternoon. I would also like to welcome Miss Agyiri-Nyarko who is working in school providing cover for other staff. We are delighted to have them as part of the skilled team here.

Governors

We have two sub-committees to the governing body who report to the full governing board.

-School Improvement which looks at the curriculum, teaching, attainment, progress and specific pupil groups including our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), our children who speak English as an Additional Language (EAL), our children for whom we receive the Early Years Pupil Premium grant (EYPP) and our vulnerable children.

-Resources which include personnel, buildings, health and safety and safeguarding. As Headteacher I attend all meetings. Mrs Cannings (ex-headteacher) is our chair of governors and sits on the School Improvement and Resources committees. She is the link governor for curriculum, teaching, learning and attainment.

Miss Grant is the vice chair and sits on the Resources committee. She is the link governor for Health and Safety and work covering data protection.

Mrs Waceba (ex-headteacher and school improvement advisor) sits on the School Improvement committee. She is the link governor for Inclusion.

Ms Mortimer (ex-principal of Dunstable College) sits on the Resources committee and is the link governor for Safeguarding.

Miss Heading is the staff governor and sits on the School Improvement committee.

Ms Gee is a parent governor and sits on both committees. She is the link governor for Community Links and Sustainability.

Our learning

In Bumblebees the children were learning about toilet training. The key text was 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants.' The children learned the keywords toilet, pants/ knickers, potty and nappy. The children washed pants and hung them on the washing line. They used pants and nappies with the dolls. They decorated their own pant cutouts, creating patterns in the mark making area.



The children are now learning about colour. The key text is 'Wow, said the Owl.' The keywords are red, blue and yellow. The children have 'Wow, said the Owl' props in a tuff spot tray to help learn the colours. They are also threading coloured keys and using coloured paints to make firework pictures.

In Dragonflies class the children were learning 'All about Me.' The key text was 'All About Me.' And the keywords included eyes, ears, nose and hair. The children made paper plate portraits and compared hair colours. They also measured themselves on a growth chart to compare how tall they are.



They are now learning about emotions. The key text is 'Colour Monster.' The keywords are happy, sad, angry and excited. The children are using rice to find hidden figures from the story and talk about the emotion. They are painting portraits with different emotions.



Ladybirds class were learning about 'My house and homes.' The key text was 'The Three Little Pigs.' The keywords included lounge, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. Children retold the story using props. They could also construct using blocks in the role play area.

Now the children are learning 'All about Me.' The key text is 'We are all Different.' The keywords include eyes, mouth, hair and nose. The children are making self portraits and making different faces using the Mr Potato head resources.

In Caterpillars class the children were learning about Harvest. The key text was 'Harvest Time.' The keywords were tractor, plant, grow and harvest. The activities included cutting and tasting different fruits as well as fruit printing.



Now the children are learning all about 'Colour and Diwali' The key text is 'Diwali.' The keywords include Diwali, Colours, candle, and fireworks. The children are role playing in the home corner and making patterns using chalks.

Butterflies were learning about 'My House and Homes.' The key text was 'The Three Little Pigs.' The keywords included house, flat, window and door. The children used props to retell the story and construction sets and wooden blocks to make houses.



The children are now learning about 'Feelings and Emotions.' The key text was 'Colour Monster.' The key words included happy, sad, worried and calm. The children enjoyed discussing emotions using the props on the tuff spot tray. They also made a large colour monster talking about his emotions.

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.goodto.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 and generally most children don't need a stroller after **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.



(<https://babymore.co.uk/guide-advice/when-to-stop-using-a-pram/>) (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



Harvest

On Friday 17th October we held a Harvest Celebration supported by Jacqueline Coates from the Salvation Army. My thanks to Mrs Andrews for leading the celebration. We collected four bags of food. The Salvation Army use this food to help those most in need, especially families with children in the local area. Come into the library to see the display.



Harvest Singing to OAP's

On Monday 20th October our children who stay all day went to the community centre to sing some Harvest songs for the old aged pensioners. They were very happy to have a visit from the children.

Early Reading at Nursery

We have reading areas in each class and outside for children to self access books. In each area children can access books both fiction (story) and non-fiction (information) books, linked to the theme or learning in class. Children also use books in other areas such as at the mark making table.



At large group times adults enjoy reading and sharing a story with children. They may use big books, story sacks or props to support children listening to, enjoying and talking about a range of books.



Each class also has a 'logo' book in the reading area, which includes pages about drinks, foods, films, apps, schools, home items, supermarkets, fast food, the high street and TV programmes. Children can spot meaningful images.

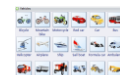


In the reading area there is also a book of child- friendly policies. These cover the work of the nursery such as the curriculum and safeguarding. There are pictures (and simple explanations) to spark conversations.

Children self-register when they enter their classroom. They have to 'read' their name card and put it on display. They can access their name card at any point, for example if they want to use it to support them writing their own name on a picture. They can also find their name on the snack table so they know where to sit.



For each theme we use our knowledge and vocabulary sheets (on the curriculum tab of the website) to select some key words. We display these key words using picture prompts to support the children using the words during their learning.



Recommended Read

Try reading 'The Little Red Hen,' a traditional tale about harvesting wheat which also includes a message about helping others.



Early Reading

Click the link to find a useful article about early reading. <https://theconversation.com/learning-to-read-starts-earlier-than-you-might-think-five-tips-from-an-expert-171561>

Five tips to support early reading for children aged under three.

1. Create a chatty environment
2. Have fun with rhythm and music making
3. Share meaningful images (see explanation of logo books below)
4. Draw attention to print in everyday life



Engage with books frequently (our library is now open daily!)

Reading Event Reminder

We invite you to join us on Wednesday 22nd October at a 'Reading event'. You are invited to join us to read a book to your child and their friends. Books will be provided but if you have a favourite children's book you want to read, please feel free to bring this. You can read the book in your home language.



Bumblebees class 11.30-11.45am or 3.00-3.15pm

3-4-year-old classes 8.45am-9.15am



Starting School

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.



School Readiness

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

Can your child recognise their own name?

Most Nursery settings ask children to self-register because children starting school should be able to read their own name. Most children learn to recognise their own name very quickly. You could start this process at home; for example, writing their name on a picture they have made.



Health and Safety Reminders

-Under no circumstances should adults on site be using phones, filming or taking pictures.

-Please remember not to park in the Beecroft carpark. This is not for Nursery use.




Uniform

We have polo shirts, sweatshirts and cardigans in 22, 24 and 26 inches. Come to the office for further information. (Uniform is optional.)



Drop Off and Collection Times Reminder

	Bumblebees	Dragonflies and Ladybirds	Caterpillars and Butterflies
AM Drop off time	8.45-8.55am	8.45-8.55am	8.45-8.55am
AM Collection time	11.35-11.45am	11.35-11.45am	Lunch in classroom
PM Drop off time	12.30-12.40pm	12.30-12.40pm	Not applicable
PM Collection time	3.20-3.30pm	3.20-3.30pm	3.20-3.30pm

A large number of children are arriving to Nursery Late. Children can get distressed if they are late to the session and this leads to lost learning. Children can also get upset if their grown up does not come on time to pick them up. Don't forget we must be told if someone else is collecting your child. We do operate a password system. Thank you

Attendance Reminder

Regular attendance at Nursery is important for academic attainment, good progress and supporting school readiness. Please support Nursery by sending your child in every day if they are well. If your child is not attending, please call the office so we can record the reason for the absence in the register. We do monitor attendance and attendance for some children is already very low.



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.



Diwali

Happy Diwali to our families who celebrate. Diwali is a Hindu festival which celebrates the triumph of good over evil and the return of Lord Rama and his wife Sita from exile after 14 years. It is celebrated by Hindu and Sikh faiths.



Half term Activities

This half term you may want to

-Visit the local Children's Centre and take part in their activities- see Timetable attached

-Visit the library

Drop into [Dunstable Library](#) for some creepy crafts and autumnal activities on the following days. Please note some activities require pre-booking, see below for details:

Spooky treasure hunt: Saturday 25th October – Sunday 2nd November

Spooktacular cartoons: Saturday 25th October 11am

Bat craft: Monday 27th October 10am – 3pm

Halloween House decorating: Monday 27th October 11am – 12pm

Frankenstein's Monster craft: Tuesday 28th October 10am – 3pm

Build a Haunted House craft: Wednesday 29th October 10am – 3pm

Spooky Storytime: Wednesday 29th October 10am – 10.30am

Booking required. Please book at help desk.

Make a monster banner craft: Thursday 30th October 10am – 3pm

Mini pumpkin treat bag: Thursday 30th October 11.30am – 12.15pm

Limited spaces available – please book at help desk.

Hanging pumpkin craft: Friday 31st October 10am – 3pm

Quadrant Pumpkin Party: Friday 31st October 10am – 2pm Go and visit the library stall!

Key Dates this Term

Wednesday 22nd October- Reading event- parents/ carers invited

3-4-year-olds 8.45-9.15am

2-year-olds 11.30-11.45am or 3.00-3.15pm

27.10.25-31.10.25 Half term- Nursery closed

Tuesday 4th November- Consultations Dragonflies class- details to follow

Wednesday 5th November- Consultations Ladybirds class- details to follow

Thursday 6th November- Consultations Caterpillars class- details to follow

Friday 7th November- Consultations Butterflies class- details to follow

Monday 10th November- Friendship Day- (children only) details to follow

Tuesday 11th November- Consultations Bumblebees class- details to follow

Wednesday 12th November- Individual photos (children only)- details to follow

Friday 14th November- Children in Need (children only)- details to follow

Monday 17th November- Nursery Rhyme Day children only)- details to follow

Wednesday 19th November- Stay and Play Day - parents/ carers invited- details to follow

3-4-year-olds 8.45-9.45am

2-year-olds 11.15-11.45am and 2.45-3.15pm

Friday 21st November- Beep Beep Day (to mark Road safety week) (children only) - details to follow

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

27.10.25-31.10.25 Autumn Half Term School closed

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

