

Oakengates Nursery School



Newsletter

Autumn Term: Week 11

Dear Parents,

What an exciting week it has been for the children! We've had the wonderful opportunity to experience snow and ice firsthand. The children have been absolutely thrilled to touch the snow and delight in the 'crunch, crunch' sound it makes beneath their feet as they walk through it. These experiences have sparked their curiosity and wonder, providing a magical backdrop to our week.

In addition to our snowy adventures, the children have also been learning about road safety. We've been discussing important topics such as the importance of crossing roads safely, understanding traffic signals, and the significance of wearing reflective clothing in low-light conditions.

I wonder what adventures you and your family will embark on this weekend? Please come and share your stories with us on Monday - we'd love to hear all about them!

Kind Regards,

Hannah Firmstone

Teacher and SENCo

World Nursery Rhyme Week

Next week we are celebrating World Nursery Rhyme Week!

World Nursery Rhyme Week promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education.

Over 5 million children from 113 countries have taken part since 2013.

The Rhyme A Day Challenge

Each year, we choose 5 rhymes and encourage children to take part in our 'Rhyme a Day' challenge by singing the nursery rhymes and taking part in lots of interesting activities.



The 5 official rhymes for 2024 are:



Twinkle Twinkle

Old Macdonald

The Big Ship Sails

Incy Wincy Spider

5 Currant Buns



Nursery rhymes are excellent teaching tools and can help to develop:



Language and literacy skills



Numeracy skills

Social, physical and emotional skills – they are so much fun!



Relocation News

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to update you that our new nursery building is still on track to open its doors to children on Tuesday, 7th January 2025.

We can't wait to welcome you and your child into this bright, new space!

During the first week of the nursery being open (7th-10th January), we would like to invite you to join us at drop-off times to help settle your child into their new learning environment. This will also give you the opportunity to explore the new nursery and see all the wonderful spaces your child will be learning in.

We hope this will provide a comforting start to the transition and allow you to feel more familiar with the surroundings.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you in January!

Warm regards,



Mrs Jenny Gascoigne.
Executive Headteacher



A message from Katie, our Deputy Daycare Manager.

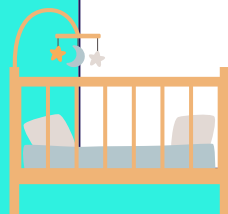
Hello, I'm Katie, the newly appointed Deputy Day Care Manager, and it is such a pleasure to be part of a warm and welcoming team.

I have over twenty five years experience working in the Early Years and over this period of time I have gained a wealth of knowledge and experience, working as a supervisor in both toddler and baby room. This experience will enable me to champion play in our setting and ensure our children always have a fun, exciting and safe environment to explore.

Over these years I have completed my CACHE Level 3 Award For Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators for Early Years Settings, which means I can support children with special educational needs. I am also trained in Makaton to support children with communication needs.

I am a huge advocate for good communication with parents and our families because I believe that we are a partnership.

Together we can help our children to 'love, laugh learn'.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page



For enquiries or to learn more about us, please contact us:

 www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk  oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk


01952 387910



Health Protection Hub

Winter Illness Advice

Teaching good hygiene habits

Parents/carers are urged to encourage good hygiene habits in their families, such as handwashing and using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes. Regularly washing hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitiser when convenient, is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of germs.

Knowing when to keep your child at home and when to send them to school

Children are encouraged to stay in school or nursery with symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough (if otherwise well and do not have a high temperature), but should stay at home if they feel too unwell to attend and/or if they have a fever. They should stay home until the fever has passed and they are well enough to attend. If they have diarrhoea and/or vomiting they should stay home for at least 48 hours after these symptoms clear up. Let the school know if your child is diagnosed with other illnesses such as scarlet fever and they can advise you how for long your child should stay off school.

Stopping the spread of stomach bugs

Stomach bugs spread easily in schools and nurseries. If you or your child have diarrhoea and/or vomiting, washing hands with soap and warm water and using bleach-based products to clean surfaces will help stop infections from spreading. Don't prepare food for others if you have such symptoms or for 48 hours after symptoms stop. If you are unwell, you should also avoid visiting people in hospitals and care homes to avoid passing on the infection to those more vulnerable. It's important not to return to school, nursery or work until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

Getting vaccinated

Infections such as flu, which see a seasonal increase in winter, are easily protected against with vaccination. All primary school age children, those aged 2 years (who have turned 2 years old before the 1 September 2024) all 3 year olds and secondary school children from Year 7 to Year 11 are eligible for the flu vaccine.

This will protect the children themselves, the school community and elderly relatives.

It's also important to ensure your children are up-to-date with their routine vaccinations, which protect against diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria and polio. If you are unsure of your child's vaccination status, you can check their "red book" or contact their GP.

NHS UK also provides easily accessible guidance for parents to help manage winter illness at home.

For enquiries or to learn more about us, please contact us:



www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk



oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk

01952 387910

Extraordinary School Closure

In the event of bad weather,
or unforeseen operational difficulties,
the Headteacher may take the difficult decision to
close the school for all or part of a day.

Every effort would be made to keep the school open or give parents
as much prior notice as possible.

If the nursery must close part way through the day,
for example because of a threat of freezing or dangerous conditions,
then a text message and or a telephone call would be made.

In the event of severe weather parents need to listen to the radio stations giving out
information on school closures:

The Telford and Wrekin school closure page and BBC Radio Shropshire being the
main source of information for our school.

Click on the link below:

[Telford and Wrekin School/Nursery Closures](#)

We will also post on our Facebook page:





KEY DATES



Date	Event
25th - 29th November	World Nursery Rhyme Week
W/C 25th November	Stay and Play
Tuesday 3rd Wednesday 4th December	 Festive Stay And Play
Friday 13th December	'Farm on Wheels' Visit for all children
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20th December	End of Term
Monday 23rd December	Nursery open for those children who attend full year (not term time).

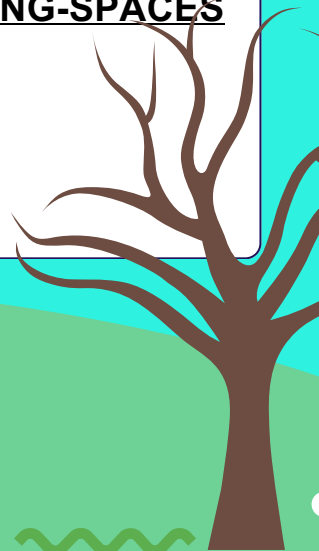




Your Child's Learning

Don't forget to find out about your child's learning this week from the room page on our website:

[HTTPS://WWW.OAKENGATESNURSERY SCHOOL.CO.UK/LEARNING-SPACES](https://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk/learning-spaces)





**Check out the Better Health,
Healthier families website!**



This useful website has food facts, recipes, activities and information of children's weight.

[HTTPS://WWW.NHS.UK/HEALTHIER-FAMILIES/](https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/)

**Telford Public Health Nursing
Service**

Healthy you, Healthy Future

Telephone Number
0333 358 3328

Text 07520 619 053

School nurse 07520 619 051

Follow on twitter

@ShropPHNurse

Open 9am-4.30pm
excluding bank holidays

**Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin
Dental Advice Line**



Do you have an urgent dental problem or need dental advice?

Are you looking for an NHS dentist for routine care?

Monday to Friday
0800-2100

01743 237916

Shropshire Community Health **NHS**



**Apply online
NOW**

Starting school?

Closing date for applications:
15 January 2025

If your child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) the closing date is **31 October 2024**.

www.telford.gov.uk/admissions

- You **must** apply if your child was born between 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021.
- You **must** apply even if your child is attending a nursery or pre-school on a school site or you have a child already attending the school.
- You are advised to list four schools on your application form, including your catchment area/nearest school.
- Attending a nursery does **not** guarantee a school place.
- School places are allocated in line with oversubscription criteria.
- See website for more information www.telford.gov.uk/



**Telford and Wrekin
FAMILY HUBS**

Right help at the right time

Did you know that 'The Oak Family Hub' is located at The Wakes and offers free help and support to residents who are navigating their way through parenting?



The Wakes
COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TODDLERS & SCREEN TIME

The toddler years are full of excitement, exploration and energy. It's a critical time in children's development, when brain connections are rapidly forming. Youngsters often begin to discover devices around this age, as they learn to communicate with friends, play games and watch videos (Ofcom recently found, for example, that one in five 3-4-year-olds in the UK uses social media). These activities can make a child happy and relaxed but have a damaging impact if overused. Setting screen time limits for toddlers can be a challenge, so we've pulled together some suggestions for making sure your little one is interacting with the online world in a safe, healthy way.

ONLINE SAFETY CHECKLIST

✓ PARENTAL CONTROLS

Children need to be shielded from content that's not age appropriate. You can do this by adjusting parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and games they use.

✓ ONGOING SUPERVISION

Try to stay engaged and present in what your child is doing digitally. Make time to talk about what they enjoy and how they can stay safe online.

✓ OFFERING HELP

Teach your toddler to ask for help – and that they should always tell a trusted adult if they're unsure about anything to do with a device, or they see or hear something that makes them scared or upset.

✓ COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Emphasise that your child should check with you before they do anything online for the first time – such as watching a new show, playing a new game or exploring a new app.

✓ FACE TO FACE IS ACE

Support toddlers' development of language and other skills by prioritising games or apps that encourage face-to-face interaction – like learning to read or count with an adult.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MODEL IT

Your toddler is watching and learning from you whenever you pick up your phone. Even babies are aware of screens and the attention their parents give to them. By showing you know when to put your phone down and focus on something else, you're modelling an important behaviour for them.

CONTROL IT

Use tech to control tech. Most devices and individual apps have settings that allow you to restrict screen time. Decide on the right length of time and use the settings or a timer to block access. This is especially useful for very young children, who simply see it as the device 'turning off'.

ANNOUNCE IT

When a toddler's screen shuts off suddenly, it can lead to frustration and tears. Let your little one mentally prepare for the end of screen time by announcing they have five minutes left, two minutes left and so on. You could also set an egg-timer, alarm or buzzer to go off just before time's up.

DELAY IT

Try to avoid letting children start their day with screen time. Once they're online, it can be hard to get them back offline – and can set a negative tone for the rest of the day. Routine and structure are important for toddlers, so encourage them to enjoy some other activities before the screens go on.

TRADE IT

You could try offering rewards and alternatives in exchange for screen time – for example, having a device-free day to get a playdate with a friend at the weekend, or skipping screen time one evening in return for a trip to the ice cream parlour tomorrow.

EARN IT

Screen time can definitely be used as a reward. You could opt for the classic "no screen time until you've tidied up your toys" or you could get creative and award screen time in relation to successful tasks: eating all of their vegetables earns 10 minutes on their device, for example.

REMOVE IT

Keep family mealtimes, social gatherings, children's bedrooms and other important occasions and places screen free. Remember to turn off TVs that you aren't watching, because even background noise can distract from you spending quality face-to-face time with your young ones.

SWAP IT

Put together a bag of things that your children love playing with – and get them to help choose what goes in there (items like stickers, pens, small toys, Lego or teddy bears are ideal). Then encourage them to pick something to play with from "the special bag of fun" instead of staring at a screen.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa: a reporting system currently being used to combat bullying in schools and businesses around the world. FaceUp helps to give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up against unacceptable behaviour.

