

# Oakengates Nursery School



## Newsletter

### Spring Term: Week 1

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well and that you had a wonderful break. I want to share that the children have settled back into nursery beautifully and are busy making new friends. This transition period can often bring a mix of excitement and nervousness for our little ones, but it's been wonderful to see them form new connections and embrace their environment. The team are committed to ensuring that every child feels safe, happy, and ready to learn. Please speak to us if there is anything further we can do to help.

I would also like to remind our pre-school parents that the deadline for applications for primary school places is fast approaching. Details of how and when to apply are on the newsletter.

As we embark on a new term, I look forward to a year filled with growth, learning, and meaningful experiences for both your children and our entire nursery community.

Wishing you all a happy new year full of happiness and success!

Kind Regards,

*Hannah Firmstone*

Teacher and SENCo

# IMPORTANT RELOCATION NEWS

10th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am delighted to update you on the progress of our new nursery build and pleased to report that everything is progressing well despite some previous delays, and we now have updated timelines to share.

The new nursery is due for completion by Friday 14 February 2025, which is also the last day of this half term. Until this date, we will continue to operate as normal at our current site.

To allow for the move and the setup of the new nursery, the Holiday Club will need to close during the half-term week of Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this closure may cause and hope you understand that this decision is necessary to ensure a smooth and efficient transition to the new site.

As you may already be aware, the new nursery will open at Charlton Street, Oakengates, TF2 6BT with the grand opening on Monday, 24 February 2025. We look forward to welcoming all children to the new site on this date. During this week, parents will be invited into nursery when dropping children off to become familiar with the new setting and help to support settling in.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time of transition. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,





Mrs Jenny Gascoigne.


BA (Hons) PGCE, NPQH


Executive Headteacher

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

 [www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk](http://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk)

 [oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk](mailto:oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk)

  
01952 387910




# 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](http://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/admissions](http://www.telford.gov.uk/admissions)** or contact School Admissions at **[admissions@telford.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@telford.gov.uk)**
- 

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

 [www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk](http://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk)

 [oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk](mailto:oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk)

  
01952 387910





## A message from Haley, early years educator in pre-school.

Hi! My name is Haley and I work in the preschool room as the key person for orange group. I have over 20 years experience working in early years and have a good knowledge of children's learning and development. I have achieved a Foundation degree in early years and childhood studies and I believe that creating a nurturing environment is essential for young children to thrive. I'm committed to providing them with diverse and enriching experiences and integrating play with structured activities which allows children to explore their interests while learning essential skills.

I'm also passionate about supporting children who speak English as an additional language. By preparing language books for the children to take home to share with their families based on our termly topics within nursery, we hope to bridge the gap and make a significant difference in their confidence and development.

I'm at the door every morning to welcome the children into nursery, please come and say hello!



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page







## KEY DATES



Date	Event
Tuesday 7th January	Term time children first day of the spring term
Wednesday 29th January	Chinese New Year
Friday 14th February	Valentines Day
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February	Half Term Holiday for all term time children
Sunday 30th March	Mothers Day
Friday 11th April	End of Term

## Your Child's Learning

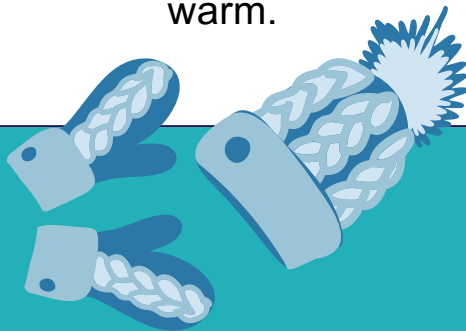
Don't forget to check out our website to find out about all the exciting things the children have been learning about this week:



## Colder Weather

As the weather turns colder, it's important to ensure that children stay warm and comfortable during their time at nursery. Please make sure your child comes equipped with a **warm coat, hat, and gloves** each day. These items will help protect them from the chilly temperatures and allow them to enjoy outdoor playtime without discomfort. Dressing in layers can also be beneficial, as it allows children to adjust their clothing for indoor and outdoor activities.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping us keep all the children cozy and warm.





**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/)**

**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**

**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



Parents Opening Doors  
'Together we can make a difference'  
<https://www.podstelford.org/>



**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





# EARLY HELP



 Telford & Wrekin Cooperative Council | Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

 **learn telford**  
adult learning starts here

**FREE**

# Maths

## Functional skills

### Advanced Level



**Time:** 12 - 2:45pm

**Date:** Monday  
24th Feb 2025 - 14th Jul 2025

**Venue:** Donnington Community Hub,  
TF2 7RB

 Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you, there are other venues/days available. For more information visit our website: [www.learntelford.ac.uk](http://www.learntelford.ac.uk)

 **To register please text/call**  
**07866 619328**



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**FREE**

# Maths

## Functional skills

### Advanced Level



**Time:** 9:15am -12pm  
or  
12:30 - 2:45pm

**Date:** Wednesday  
26th Feb 2025 - 16th Jul 2025

**Venue:** The Wakes, Oakengates,  
TF2 6EP

 Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you, there are other venues/days available. For more information visit our website: [www.learntelford.ac.uk](http://www.learntelford.ac.uk)

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# English

## Functional skills

### Advanced Level



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# English

## Functional skills

### Advanced Level



► **Date:** Tuesday  
25th Feb 2025 - 15th Jul 2025  
**Time:** 9:15 - 11am

► **Date:** Thursday  
27th Feb 2025 - 17th Jul 2025  
**Time:** 12 - 2:45pm

**Venue:** The Wakes, Oakengates, TF2 6EP

 Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you, there are other venues/days available. For more information visit our website: [www.learntelford.ac.uk](http://www.learntelford.ac.uk)

 **For more information & to register please text/call**  
**078666 19328 or visit our**





# 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.



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

<https://www.healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/Pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx> | [https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/234808/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234808/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf)  
<https://blog.kingscollege.edu.au/10-strategies-for-managing-screen-time/> | [https://www.babycenter.com/child/activities-and-play/screen-time-kids\\_10408590](https://www.babycenter.com/child/activities-and-play/screen-time-kids_10408590) | <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/screen-time-baby-toddler.html>