

Oakengates Nursery School



Newsletter

Spring Term: Week 3

Dear Parents,

This week has been an exciting one for our children as they delved into the enchanting world of 'The Gingerbread Man'. They have enjoyed the hands-on experience of making bread rolls and biscuits out of playdough, which not only sparks their creativity but also enhances their fine motor skills. The children have also been engaging in singing sessions with classic songs and rhymes such as 'Pat-a-Cake,' adding a musical touch to their learning journey.

I am delighted to share that our pre-school is participating in a research project focused on storytelling, in collaboration with the Education Endowment Fund. This initiative provides us with wonderful opportunities to foster a love for reading and storytelling among our young learners. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this project will have on their development.

Kind Regards,

Hannah Firmstone

Early Years Lead & SENCo

IMPORTANT REMINDER

We would like to remind parents that the nursery is closed to all children from Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we take this necessary step to enhance our facilities. This closure period will allow us to make final preparations and ensure everything is ready for your children's new learning environment.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the grand opening on Monday, 24th February.

Thank you for your co-operation and patience during this time.





A message from Hannah, our Early Years Lead & Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator.

With many years of experience working with children and families, I am a dedicated and passionate teacher, particularly in the unique and positive environment at Oakengates Nursery School. With a BA (Hons) degree and postgraduate studies in education and special educational needs (SEN), I have developed a deep understanding of child development and the importance of creating an inclusive, supportive space where every child can thrive. As a mother of two I am realistic about the challenges of parenthood and know that it is important to embrace the wonderful unpredictability of young children. I take great pride in the work I do and the environment we've cultivated at the nursery. Our team is committed to fostering an atmosphere where children feel safe, valued, and encouraged to grow and explore. It is this shared ethos that drives me to work hard every day to ensure that each child's individual needs are met and that they are given the tools to flourish. I strive to maintain a fantastic team that shares my passion for making a difference, and together, we help each child reach their full potential during their time at nursery.

Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working with children of varying ages and backgrounds, which has allowed me to develop a compassionate, adaptable, and child-centred approach. My experiences range from teaching dance and drama to providing one-on-one support for children with special educational needs and leading classroom activities that encourage inclusivity and creativity. I am committed to making sure every child can thrive, feel valued, regardless of their individual challenges.

As Early Years Lead, I will always look for new ways to enhance my practice, whether it be through further professional development, research, or collaboration with colleagues and families, ensuring the nursery I help shape remains one where children and their families feel supported and valued.





KEY DATES



Date	Event
Wednesday 29th January	Chinese New Year
Friday 14th February	Valentines Day
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February	Nursery closed to all children
Monday 24th February	Grand Opening of the new nursery
Sunday 30th March	Mothers Day
Tuesday 1st April	Incredible Eggs delivering duckling eggs
Friday 11th April	End of Term

SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page



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:



Admin Office Opening Hours

The office operates from Monday to Thursday, with opening hours from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM.

On Fridays, the office closes earlier, at 1:00 PM.

Should you need assistance or have any inquiries outside of these hours, you can call the out-of-hours phone on **07340 751171**.

This ensures that support or urgent matters can be attended to even when the office is closed.





**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**



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



 Protect, care and invest to create a better borough 

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

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

 Protect, care and invest to create a better borough 

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

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English

Functional skills

Advanced Level



Time: 12 - 2:45pm

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

Venue: Donnington Community Hub,
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 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

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 Protect, care and invest to create a better borough 

FREE

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

 **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.

