



Oakengates Nursery School

Newsletter

Autumn Term: Week 5



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we've been diving into the classic tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears, which has sparked lots of excitement and imaginative play across the nursery.

The story has provided a brilliant springboard for developing communication and language skills. Children have been retelling the tale in their own words, exploring new vocabulary, and engaging in role play—taking turns being Goldilocks, Baby Bear, and even designing their own “just right” porridge recipes!

We're continuing to focus on regular attendance, which helps children build routines and make the most of these rich learning experiences. Thank you for your ongoing support in helping your child arrive on time and ready to learn.

As always, we're here to support you and your child. If you'd like ideas for extending the story at home or have any questions about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the team.

Kind Regards,

Hannah Firmstone

Early Years Lead & SENCo





NURSERY RHYME OF THE WEEK

We all know how important early communication skills are for your child's development — and parents play a vital role in this journey.

Singing songs and reading stories at home are two of the most powerful ways to support your child's language and communication. These activities help children:

- Hear and learn new words
- Understand rhythm and sentence structure
- Develop listening and attention skills
- Build confidence in expressing themselves

Even just a few minutes a day can make a big difference!

Each week we will be focusing on a new nursery rhyme. Singing it together at home helps your child join in with familiar words, actions, and sounds — and it's a lovely bonding moment too.

Our rhyme this week is:
Dingle Dangle Scarecrow

Click on the scarecrow to listen to it:



tempest photography will be here

We will be taking
Portraits

at
Oakengates
Nursery
School

date & time
Friday 17th
October
9.30 - 1.30



TEMPEST
PHOTOGRAPHY



photography@htempest.co.uk



www.tempest-photography.co.uk



@HTempestPhoto



01736 751555



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Telford and Wrekin Health Protection Hub need your help!

They are collecting parent views about the MMR vaccine and would really like to get the views of parents at our nursery.

Please complete the short, anonymous survey below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/B3N3dVASYt>

or scan the QR code:



Information on measles can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Information on the MMR can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>





CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Dear Parents & Carers,

So that you can plan ahead, we'd like to share our Christmas opening times so you can enjoy a magical break with your little ones!

The term ends on Friday 19th December

We're open for holiday club (full year places):

Monday 22nd December,

Tuesday 23rd December,

Friday 2nd January,

Monday 5th January.

Closed for the Holidays:

Wednesday 24th December to Thursday 1st January

The term starts on Tuesday 6th January for all term time children.





Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Apply online NOW



Starting school?

Closing date for applications:

15 January 2026

If your child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) the closing date is **31 October 2025**.

www.telford.gov.uk/admissions

- n** You **must** apply if your child was born between 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022.
- n** 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.
- n** You are advised to list four schools on your application form, including your catchment area/nearest school.
- n** Attending a nursery does **not** guarantee a school place.
- n** School places are allocated in line with oversubscription criteria.
- n** See website for more information **www.telford.gov.uk/admissions** or contact School Admissions at **admissions@telford.gov.uk**





KEY DATES



Date	Event
Wednesday 1 st October	Start of Black History Month
Friday 10 th October	 World Mental Health Day Dress In Green
W/B Monday 13 th October	Stay and Play
Friday 17 th October	Tempest Photography to take autumn nursery photos.
W/B Monday 20 th October	 Diwali Celebrations



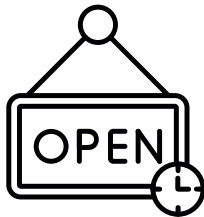
SOCIAL MEDIA

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.





FAMILY SUPPORT



Being a parent is one of the most difficult tasks there is; most families need support at times to help their children and young people thrive, and our ambition is for every family in our borough to receive the right help and the right time, with our community offer having a particular focus on providing advice and assistance at the earliest possible stage as and when challenges arise.

Our Family Hubs offer has expanded, and we are pleased to share the latest developments and opportunities available to families.

We offer daily drop-in sessions across Telford where families can access support without the need for referrals or pre-booked appointments. Parents and carers are very welcome to attend if they are looking for information, advice, support or guidance around any aspect of family life. Should our friendly practitioners not have an immediate answer, we will follow up with them promptly.

The drop-in locations and times are as follows:

Monday: Dawley Town Hall, 10:00am – 12:00noon

Tuesday: Silver Birch Family Hub, Sutton Hill / Hub on the Hill (alternate weeks) 10:00am – 12:00noon (term time)

Wednesday: Southwater Library (Children's Section), 09:30am – 12:00noon

Thursday: Arleston Community Centre, Wellington, 10:00am – 12:00noon
The Hub, Newport, 10:00am – 12:00noon

Friday: Donnington Community Hub (Damson Family Hub), 9:30am – 11:30am



Top Tips for Nurseries on Understanding EYFS REFORMS ON FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

The upcoming EYFS reforms, set to take effect in September 2025, will introduce significant changes to food safety practices in early years settings. The reforms impact food handling, staff training, and allergen management, as well as nutritional requirements and menu development. As with all aspects of the EYFS, these changes are to ensure children's health and safety – but what do they mean for your setting?

SAFER EATING



The reforms introduce new requirements for safer eating practices. It's advisable to address each area of food safety in your setting's policies and demonstrate that appropriate actions have been taken for each. Some changes directly affect your kitchen, while others focus on mealtime supervision and staff training, such as on allergens, allergies and nutrition.

ALLERGY MANAGEMENT



The proposed changes enhance allergy and anaphylaxis management in early years settings, requiring robust policies that identify children with allergies and address their needs. Staff training is essential to recognise allergic reactions and anaphylaxis – it should also cover emergency responses and adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) use. Anaphylaxis UK advocates for a comprehensive allergy awareness approach across the entire setting, promoting safety for all children.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS



As part of the reforms, settings will be required to have an individual healthcare plan (IHP) for each child with a known allergy. IHPs must clearly outline the child's specific allergen(s), their allergy symptoms, an emergency response plan, and their emergency contacts.

EMERGENCY PREPARATION



Settings should maintain spare AAIs for emergencies and conduct regular drills to review their procedures. Continuous staff training is vital, ensuring they can recognise anaphylaxis symptoms and properly administer AAIs. Settings may choose any government-approved training body that meets the standards for paediatric first aid, as there's no mandatory provider. This flexibility allows for tailored training that suits each setting's particular needs.

INTRODUCTION OF SOLID FOODS



The reforms place greater focus on the introduction and preparation of solid foods, requiring an individualised approach based on each child's developmental stage rather than just their age. Ongoing discussions with parents are crucial to understanding each child's readiness for solid foods, keeping both parties informed about the types of food at home and in the setting.

CHOKING PREVENTION MEASURES



Children must always be within sight and earshot of staff when eating in order to prevent choking incidents. Staff should monitor children for signs of distress and worrisome eating habits, ensuring they document any choking incidents to help them recognise patterns. A valid paediatric first aid certificate is a requirement for adequate meal supervision. Additionally, settings must follow specific kitchen safety practices to minimise choking risks and manage allergens effectively.

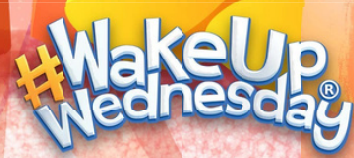
NUTRITIONAL AWARENESS



The changes to early years nutrition help settings understand the importance of menu planning for childhood development. Menus should support development, feature food items that enhance brain function and immunity, and include a colourful, balanced variety of foods. The reforms prioritise cultural relevance and require snacks that provide 10% of a child's daily energy needs. The changes also address health trends, choking awareness, allergy management, and the long-term impact of nutrition on children's development.

Meet Our Expert

Louise Mercieca is a nutritional therapist and award-winning author dedicated to educating people on the link between food and health. As an early years nutrition consultant, she helps nurseries and catering providers with menu development and staff training on nutrition for child development.



The
National
College®

Source: <https://www.tosf.org.uk/>



FAMILY SUPPORT



**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

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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?

