

The Oaks Nursery - Spring Term 2024

Welcome back to the new term. We hope you all enjoyed the break. Amongst all the rain, I think we even saw the odd sign of spring with a couple of mild and sunny days.

Since returning it has been lovely to hear the children's news and look at the photos in their yellow books. The children enjoy the time we spend sharing these books so many thanks for your contributions. Please keep them coming. We now look forward to the term ahead and, hopefully, some sunnier and warmer days as Spring approaches.

This term we welcome Joy, Theo and their families as they join us for the first time. We hope your time with us will be fun and rewarding.

Spring Term Curriculum -

In a world where we are increasingly busy and surrounded by technology, reading and stories seem to be becoming less of a focus within homes yet it is so important in promoting our children's brain development, attention, language and imagination. With this in mind, and with World Book Day falling on Thursday 7th March, we decided we would celebrate our love of books for the first few weeks of term. We will have focus books, read our favourite stories, talk about the characters, make up our own stories and make some books.

Later in the term we will also talk about our mummies as we celebrate Mothering Sunday. We will start to talk about spring and look at the changes taking place in the garden, and we will get ready for our Easter celebrations with lots of Easter craft.

As always, in addition to our main topics we will have a lot fun as we learn about shapes and numbers and develop our counting. There will be plenty of cooking activities which cover all areas of our curriculum and lots of opportunities for messy play to support early mark making and language development.

If you would like some ideas of activities to support your child's development at home please speak to a member of the team.

As always please see your yellow books and our Facebook page for information on our topics.

World Book Day

In celebration of World Book Day we would like to welcome you into nursery to share your favourite stories with the children. I am sure your children would be very excited to have you in nursery to read to them and their friends. We would love to see you too! Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a time. You don't need to be nervous - the children aren't as scary as they look and are generally a very enthusiastic audience!!



Ben Kingston-Hughes Inspired Children Webinar

If you have not yet signed up for the webinar on Tuesday 5th March and would like to attend please speak to a member of the team. Ben will speak about the importance of play and how it is vital for children's brain growth, health and life expectancy. He will also give tips and ideas to help your child through positive play. Ben speaks with great humour and is very entertaining! If you have a spare evening I would urge you to 'attend'.

Yellow Books

Please remember to use your yellow books to share the children's news. The children are proud of their books and are always excited to show them to us and share their news and photos with their friends. The books are also extremely useful if your child is unsettled as talking about something that they have done at home or their family or looking at photos of home generally calms them.



E-Safety -

Our children use technology from an increasingly early age and after the pressures put on us in recent years with lockdowns and working from home they are using devices more frequently. It is therefore essential that it's safe use is discussed with them as soon as they begin to use it. It is important that we build the foundations for safe and positive use by only allowing them access to age-appropriate content and also ensuring that, as they move forward, they are able to cope with risks posed to them online. Within the setting the children do not have access to the internet or ICT equipment however this may not be so easy to control at home with the availability of iPads, iPhones and other mobile devices where children have the internet at their fingertips.

There are several websites containing information about how to keep children safe on-line which you may like to look at.

www.childnet.com/resources/keeping-young-children-safe-online

www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/article-internet-use-and-safety>

It is also important to remember that what children see or watch online or on the TV influences their play.

Should you have any questions regarding any of this information please speak with a member of the team.



Facebook

If you have not yet joined our Facebook group please do so! Every week we update the page telling you about what the children have been doing and upload photos.

The group is a closed group so only those with permitted access can view it. If you would like to join please search **The Oaks Nursery** and we will accept your request.



Parents' Evening

Our next Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 21st March. Sign-up sheets for an appointment to talk to your child's keyworker will be available later in the term.

Of course, if there is something that is concerning you regarding your child either in their development or otherwise, please do not feel you have to wait for the Parents' Evening. Our door is always open.



Easyfundraising

As a charity the nursery is extremely reliant on fundraising. An easy way for you to support us in this is by signing up for Easyfundraising. Through Easyfundraising every time you shop online you can raise funds for the nursery at no cost to you. Please take a look, it's very simple.....

Spare Clothes

Please ensure that all of your child's clothes are named. In helping the children to become increasingly independent they have access to their bags at all times which means we often find clothes randomly strewn across the cloakroom! By ensuring that clothes are named we can ensure they end up in the right bags at the end of the day. In addition, where possible, please refrain from sending in large 'bags for life'. The children's coat pegs are not big enough to be able to store them.

Easter Egg Hunt

Our Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the last day of term - Wednesday 27th March. All children and parents are invited. We hope you will be able to join us. As well as our Easter Egg hunt there will be an egg tombola and raffle organised by the committee. More details will follow in your yellow books in the coming weeks.



Outstanding Fees

We still have a small number of invoices outstanding for this term's fees. If you have not yet paid or spoken to a member of the team about setting up a payment plan we would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Becky and The Oaks Team

Please read on for more information....

Some things to remember please.....

- Your child needs a change of shoes for the nursery. Black plimsolls or slippers with a hard sole are ideal as they can be worn outside when it is dry and are easy for your child to put on and take off independently. Please remember to name them as we have many pairs that look the same.
- Please ensure your child has at least one change of clothes. The children will be outside whatever the weather and may play with mud and water. Wherever possible **please name these clothes so that they end up in the right bags at the end of the day.** Please also check these clothes regularly to ensure they fit and correspond to the weather conditions.
- Please ensure your child has a pair of named welly boots which, where possible, can be left at the nursery.
- The nursery is a 'nut free zone'. Please ensure that lunchboxes **do not** contain nuts, peanut butter sandwiches etc. Also, in line with Environmental Health guidelines, all lunch boxes should contain an ice pack.
- We encourage the children to be as independent as possible at lunchtimes. Please therefore ensure food is cut into manageable pieces e.g., grapes and tomatoes should be cut in half where possible to avoid choking.
- Please ring if your child will not be attending due to illness or holiday as reasons for absences need to be noted. In addition, please inform us if your child is expected to be collected by someone other than yourself. We will not allow a child to leave our care unless we have been advised beforehand of a change of arrangement.
- **The school car park is for staff use only.** Please adhere to the request of KCC not to use the car park at any time of the day.
- The nursery's policies and procedures are available to read and can be found in a purple folder in the entrance hall.

Please read on for dates for your diary.....

Dates for your diary 2024

Monday 19th February	Start of Term 4
Tuesday 5th March (please register your interest with a member of the team)	Importance of Play webinar
Thursday 7th March	World Book Day
Thursday 21st March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 27th March	Easter Egg Hunt - 2-3pm
Wednesday 27th March	End of Term 4
Monday 15th April	Start of Term 5
Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday
Friday 24th May	End of Term 5
Monday 3rd June	Start of Term 6
Friday 19th July	Sports Day & Leavers Service
(Save the date - more details to follow)	
Friday 19th July	End of Term 6