

The Lea Nursery School

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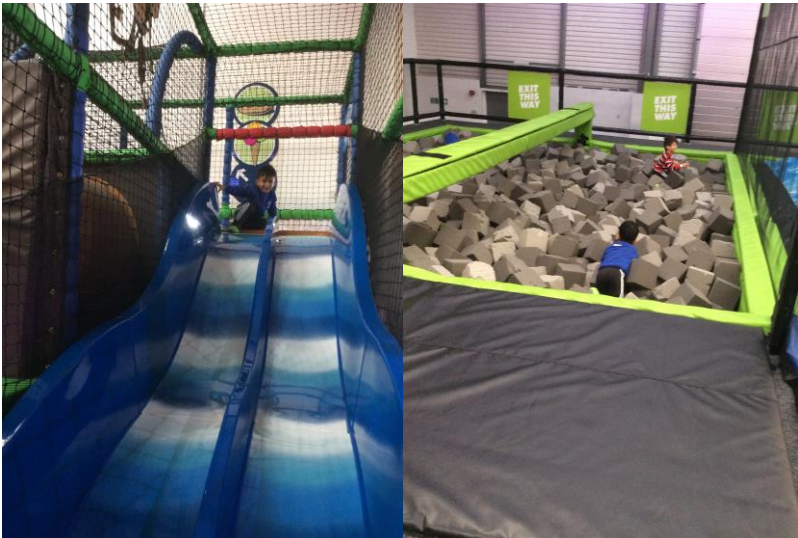
17.12.2018

Dear Parents and Carers

The half term has flown by and as this term draws to a close here is a newsletter with a few of the highlights. Thank you to all of the parents who, through the course of the term, have been involved in children's learning. It is by working together that we have the greatest impact on children and their progress and learning.

Outing to Jump In

In November a group of children, parents and staff went on an outing to Jump In Slough. Thank you especially to all of the parents who got fully involved and enjoyed a bit of jumping too. I think it is fair to say that everyone came back exhausted after two hours of jumping! The feedback from this outing was exceptionally positive and we will definitely be going back. Here are some photographs of the day.



Diwali at Lea

Thank you to those parents who contributed food and joined our Diwali party In November. The children loved the experience of creating divas from salt dough, making rangoli patterns and sharing food. The fireworks Mr. Gary lit at the end were a special highlight for many children. Thank you Mr. Gary.



Tithe Farm Nursing Home

Last week a small group of children, staff and parents went to visit Tithe Farm Nursing Home. They sang a few Christmas carols to the residents and spent a little time talking to them. We have an ongoing relationship with Tithe Farm Nursing Home because research shows that both children and old people benefit from spending time together. Sometimes the residents come and visit us at Nursery, and sometimes they invite us to visit the Nursing Home.



Admissions Deadline

If your child was born between **1 September 2014** and **31 August 2015** you will need to apply for a Primary School place for him/her before the 15 January. The easiest way to apply is online at https://capita.slough.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/Account/Login Please make sure you apply for a school place by this deadline. If you need any help then please speak to a staff member. You will hear which school your child has a place at on the 16th of April 2019.

Food and Drink at Nursery

We have some children with food allergies and special dietary requirements at Nursery. Sometimes these can be very serious and life threatening. Please help us by making sure your child doesn't bring food into Nursery. Please never let your child bring food in their bags or pockets and please make sure he/she finishes his/her breakfast/lunch before arriving at Nursery.

Introduction to Lea Nursery

If you missed it the first time around please come to our next **'Introduction to Lea Nursery'** workshop on **Wednesday 16th of January** at **8:45am or 12:30pm**.

In this workshop you will hear about the curriculum and how children learn at Lea Nursery. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions that you might have.

The Building Blocks of Literacy



Would you like to know more about how children learn to read and write? Would you like ideas of activities that will help your child to be a successful and enthusiastic reader and writer?

Please join our Parent Workshop on **Wednesday 30th January 2019 8:45am or 13:45pm**.



Last Day and Christmas Parties

Wednesday (19th of December) is the last day of Nursery before the Christmas break. Please note that we close at **13:30** on Wednesday.

We will be having our Christmas parties on this day. The party in the morning is at **10am** and the one in the afternoon is at **12:30pm**. Please bring food to share and join our party. The children will be singing a few Christmas carols, we will be handing out prizes for children who have attended more than 95% of the sessions for the term and Father Christmas might just be joining the parties...

Each Saturday there is a Food Bank that runs from this building. We will be collecting food and other items for them this week. The lists below show the items they urgently need, and the items they have plenty of already. If you are able to help please do...

URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

SPONGE PUDDINGS

CUSTARD TINNED

VEGETARIAN MEALS

MASHED POTATO

SHAVING FOAM

CARRIER BAGS

FRUIT JUICE

JAM

TINNED FRUIT

LAUNDRY CAPSULES

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF

BEANS (ALL KINDS)

CHICK PEAS

PASTA

TEA

WOMEN'S SANITARY TOWELS



First Day Back

The first day back for children is **Friday the 4th of January**. We have lots of new children starting the following week so please bring your child back on the Friday, so staff can focus on him/her and settle him/her back in before the new children start on the Monday.

Future Funding for Lea Nursery School

Maintained nursery schools such as Lea Nursery School, are local authority run schools for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds. They are required to employ a head teacher, qualified teachers, a SENCO (special educational needs co-ordinator) and staff with level 3 qualifications (such as a diploma in early years education and care), while Private and Voluntary Nurseries need to employ only one staff member with a level 3 qualification, and half of their remaining staff at level 2. More highly qualified staff means higher costs.

The current government has recognised Nursery Schools crucial role as system leaders for the early years, and that the Early Years National Funding Formula (EYNFF) introduced in 2017 does not adequately provide for their costs: ***“Maintained nursery schools are of course schools and as such, bear costs over and above other providers because of their structure.” (DfE Consultation on Early Years Fairer Funding August 2016)***

When introducing the EYNFF for other early years providers in 2017, it therefore committed to maintaining level funding for maintained nursery schools until 2019-20 through a block of supplementary funding of around £59m per year. **However, no guarantee on funding has been given after 2020, leaving maintained nursery schools unable to plan and budget for the future.** An urgent decision is needed on how maintained nursery schools will be funded from 2020 onwards.

Over the summer of 2018, government commissioned researchers Frontier Economics to study the costs faced by maintained nursery schools such as Lea Nursery School, and how they differ from other early years providers in the services they provide to children and to the rest of the early years sector. We understand the results of this research

should be available in spring 2019 to inform government proposals for a future funding proposal. **However, time is running out for maintained nursery schools, many of which urgently need a funding solution to enable governors and local authorities to make crucial decisions about the appointment of head teachers and other staff, and even whether the school has a viable future. A failure to act now by ministers could have disastrous consequences, leading to many schools closing in the absence of a clear position on future funding.**

The government requires all schools to have three year budgets in place, so we now need to be able to make reasonable assumptions about our budgets from 2020 onwards. While we acknowledge that detailed funding settlements must await the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review, **we call on government to make an in principle commitment as soon as possible to fund maintained nursery schools on the same basis as all other schools, namely school-based funding (including a lump sum and premises factors) in addition to funding per child in line with any additional costs identified by the Frontier Economics study.** This would be in line with the amount of supplementary funding currently provided, but would distribute it on a fair, equitable and predictable basis, and would recognise the value of the services that maintained nursery schools provide over and beyond other early years providers.

How You Can Help

❖ Please sign the petition to request the House of Commons to urge the Government to ensure maintained nursery schools are financially stable for the future. There is a petition at Reception and we have also attached a copy to this newsletter. Please sign it yourself and get family and friends to sign it too. The more signatures we get the better so if you need any extra pages please ask Chantal August at Reception. We need to complete the petition by Friday the 11th of January 2019 so please hand it back with any signatures by then.

❖ Please write to our local councillors highlighting the work of our nursery school and our concerns about our future long term, sustainable funding.

The ward councillors for **Wexham Lea** are:

1. Councillor Haqeeq Dar	The correspondence address for all three councillors is: St Martins Place 51 Bath Road Slough Berkshire SL1 3UF
2. Councillor Shabnum Sadiq	
3. Councillor Paul S. Sohal	

❖ Please write to our local member of parliament (MP) highlighting the same issues and support raised in your letter to the local councillors. Our local MP is Tan Dheshi.

The correspondence address for Tan Dheshi is: Post Tan Dheshi
52 Chalvey High Street
Slough
SL1 2SQ

I would like to thank you in advance for your support. Lea Nursery is an asset to the community and your support will help us maintain this outstanding provision.



I hope all families have a restful and peaceful December break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Reporting Absence

If your child is absent please report it in one of the following 3 ways:

- Phone the Nursery on **01753 536492**
- Text the Nursery on the following number **078 6003 4214**
- E-mail the Nursery using the address post@lea-nursery.slough.sch.uk

If your child is absent and you receive a text please either reply to this text, phone or e-mail to let us know why your child is away.