



The Lea Nursery School

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Dear Parents and Carers

As the half term draws to a close I thought I would end the half term with a newsletter thanking all of you (and most especially all of your children) for a lovely half term, despite the COVID-19 chaos in the world around us.

We will be closing on **Friday 23rd of October** for half term. Nursery will be closed all of next week.

Please note that **Monday 2nd of November** is a staff training day so we will reopen again for children on **Tuesday 3rd of November**.

Fruit and Vegetables

We have been overwhelmed by the generous donations of fruit and vegetables for snack time. Thank you very much to all of you. The children have loved the variety in fruit that we have been able to offer each day.

Please don't send anymore fruit in this week- we have enough to last us the week and we don't want any to go to waste while we are closed for half term next week.

Please continue donating next half term when we return to Nursery. Please remember that you can donate vegetables as well as fruit- it is good to expose children to vegetables such as carrots, cucumbers, tomato, celery and peppers. Children are often more likely to try new flavours and tastes at Nursery.



Parent Governors

We need **one** new Parent Governor. The School Governing Body are a group of volunteers who help to make decisions about all aspects of the school. You don't need any special qualifications or teaching experience to be a School Governor. The most important qualities in a School Governor are enthusiasm, commitment and an interest in education. School Governors meet at least once a term and there is also a commitment to helping on one or two sub-committees. These sub-committees cover different areas like finance, buildings and curriculum. **If you are interested in being a governor, then please speak to me.** Parents whose children still have another year (or more) at Lea Nursery might be most interested in this role.

Chicks at Nursery

A couple of weeks ago we gave children the experience of watching chicks hatch from eggs. Children then had the opportunity to look after them and watch them grow. They have now gone back to the farm.



Daily Routine

Due to COVID-19 and guideline we have had to try to limit your use of the building. This means you have had little opportunity to see the daily routine here at Nursery. Here is a little guide to the routines in the morning and afternoon sessions.

8:35- 9:00am/ 12:20- 12:40pm- All children and staff start the day outside. This means that all keyworkers can be around and available to settle your child, and if necessary talk to you when you drop your child off. Please try to avoid coming into the Nursery garden if you can- this will help us keep all children safe as COVID-19 cases in the community rise.

9:00am/ 12:40pm onwards: Half of the adults go inside and for the remainder of the morning children can move freely between learning and playing outside and inside. Some children choose to spend lots of time inside, others choose to spend lots of time outside. Please don't worry if your child chooses to play outside- Nursery adults plan lots of different learning experiences outside, including opportunities to draw, write and read.

During the session there is a snack time inside. Children are invited in small groups to the snack table. An adult ensures that all children wash their hands before eating. Children are offered fruit as well as milk and water. There are photographs of all of the children who have food allergies by the snack table so that adults can make sure that children don't eat anything they are allergic to.



Near the end of the session there is a tidy up time in which all children are encouraged to tidy the toys they have been playing with.



At the end of the session each key group has a story/singing time.

At the end of each morning when most children are going home, the lunch children wash their hands and then eat their lunch. After they've finished eating they play outside until the afternoon children arrive.

Garden Use in Winter

Please note that we use the garden in all weathers. At this time of year all children HAVE to wear a coat when they go outside so please don't worry that your child will be cold. If it is raining and children want to use the parts of the garden that are not covered they need to wear a raincoat and welly boots. You can send these in with your child if they have them, however we have welly boots and raincoats at Nursery that they can use too.

Active play is essential to the long-term health of children, helping them to fend off the development of diseases such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease in adulthood. In addition to this, the risk of catching COVID-19 is lower outside because children are playing in a large volume of clean and fresh air.

Children also learn a great deal through outdoor play. They learning physical skills that are an important foundation for developing the muscles in their hands. This is important for writing. In addition to this they learn about lots of other concepts like weight, distance, speed, the natural world and even creativity and imagination as they play and explore.

Please help us by making sure your child is warmly dressed and please make sure that his/her coat has his/her name clearly marked on it.

Reporting Absence

Please report all absences to Nursery, giving the reason for absence. We need this information to keep all children safe. If you do not call Nursery we will text you and ask to you to text, email or phone us. If you do not respond we will phone you to find out why your child is not at Nursery.

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 **07786208889**
- E-mail the Nursery using the address post@lea-nursery.slough.sch.uk

Independence Skills

Most of the children that attend Lea Nursery will be starting Reception in September. We want children to be ready for Reception and there are some things we try to encourage early on to ensure that children are in the best possible place for the transition. Please help us by encouraging your child to do them independently too.

- **Getting children to put their own coat on.**

This is the way we teach them to do it- please help your child by practising at home.

1. Put the hood of the coat by your child's feet.
2. Get your child to put his/her arms in the sleeves.
3. Get your child to flip the coat over his/her head.
4. Hey presto- your child will have his/her coat on!
5. Show your child how to do up the zip by fastening the bottom bit and encouraging him/her to pull it up.

- **Going to the toilet independently**

By 3 years of age most children are ready for toilet training. If your child tells you when he/she is wet or needs changing, then he/she is ready for toilet training. If your child still wears nappies, then half term is the ideal opportunity to focus on toilet training. If you would like advice or support with toilet training, then please talk to me or your child's keyworker.

- **Eating independently.**

When your child starts Reception he/she will need to feed him/herself. It takes children a long time to learn to feed themselves so it's important to start practising now. At first children might be slow at doing this and they



might also make a mess, but the more the practise the better they get. Please give your child lots of opportunities to practise.

- **Drinking from a cup.**

Health professionals including dentists and speech and language therapists recommend that children stop using bottles and dummies around 1 year of age. Drinking from a cup is an important skill to learn. You can start by only putting a little bit of liquid in the cup so if it spills, it won't make a big mess. Please give your child daily practise doing this.

Have a lovely half term and please stay safe.

Term Dates

Autumn 2020

Term 1

Term ends on: Friday 23rd October 2020

October Holiday: Monday 26th October 2020 to Friday 30th October 2020

Term 2

Term starts on: Monday 2nd November 2020

Monday 2nd November 2020 is an INSET day and school is closed for all children.

Term ends on: Friday 18th December 2020

Christmas Holiday: Monday 21st December 2020 to Friday 1st January 2021

Spring 2021

Term 3

Term starts on: Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 4th of January 2021 is an INSET day and school is closed for all children.

Term ends on: Friday 12th February 2021

February Holiday: Monday 15th February 2021 to Friday 19th February 2021

Term 4

Term starts on: Monday 22nd February 2021

Term ends on: Thursday 1st April 2021

Spring Holiday: Friday 2nd April 2021 to Friday 16th April 2021

(Good Friday – 2nd April 2021; Easter Monday – 5th April 2021)

Summer 2021

Term 5

Term starts on: Monday 19th April 2021

Monday 19th of April 2021 is an INSET day and school is closed for all children.

Term ends on: Friday 28th May 2021

May Holiday: Monday 31st May 2021 to Friday 4th June 2021

Term 6

Term starts on: Monday 7th June 2021

Term ends on: Wednesday 21st July 2021

Wednesday 21st July 2021 is an INSET day and school is closed for all children.