



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter January 2024

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's Interests & Winter**

This month's Value: **Diversity**



Happy New Year!

We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and a restful New Year! Thank you so much for all the generous gifts that you sent in, it really was very kind of you.

Welcome!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new families and staff who are joining us throughout January. We hope that you enjoy your time with us at Caldecote. We look forward to getting to know you...



Living Wage Employer

We are also delighted to announce that as of the 1st January, we have become a Living Wage Employer. The real Living Wage is the only UK wage rate based on the cost of living.

It is voluntarily paid by over 14,000 UK businesses who believe their staff deserve a wage which meets everyday needs....and so do we!

We have made a commitment to invest in our staff as the most valuable resource in the nursery and hope that this is just the beginning of a great 2024 for all!



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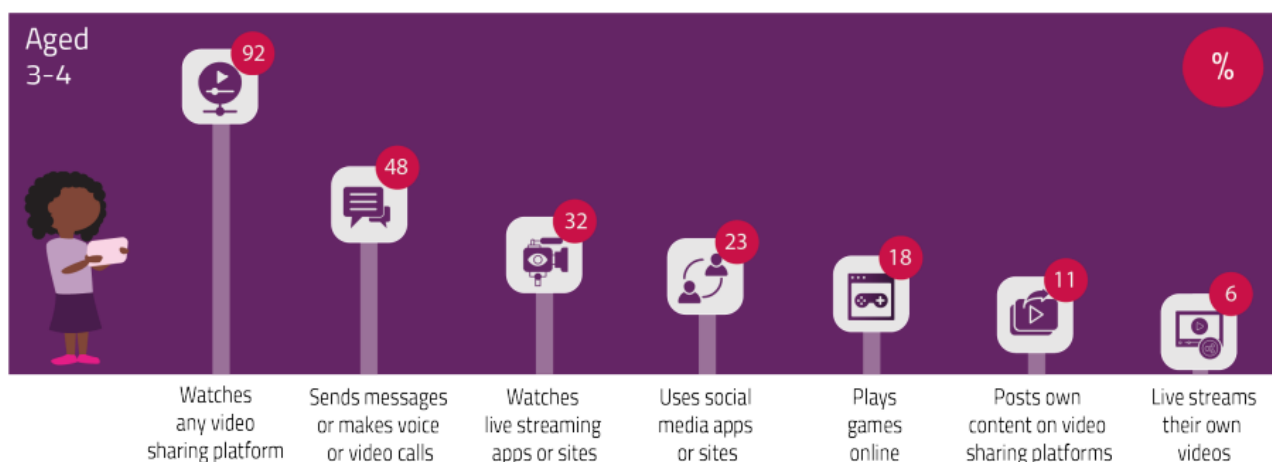
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Safeguarding

Safeguarding children's wellbeing is paramount for us at nursery. Here are some important messages about online safety in the early years.

Recent statistics from Ofcomm Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Survey 2023 show how active 3- and 4-year-olds are online. But how aware are you of what your child does online...?

Online activities of 3-4-year-olds



Explore Together - Talk to your child about what the internet is and explore it together so you can show them all the great fun and educational things they can do.

Put yourself in control - Install parental controls on your home broadband. Most Internet-enabled devices also allow you to set parental controls so you can monitor what your children are looking at.

Use Passwords - Keep your devices out of reach and set passwords on all your internet-enabled devices and don't share them. Then you'll know when and where your child is accessing the internet. You can also make sure they're not making additional purchases when they're playing games or using apps.

Search Safely - Use safe search engines such as Swiggle or Kids-search. You can save time by adding these to your 'Favourites'. Safe search settings can also be activated on Google and other search engines, as well as YouTube.

Be Involved - Encourage them to use devices in a communal area like the lounge or kitchen so you can keep an eye on how they are using the internet and share in their enjoyment.

Manage Access - Set your homepage to a child-friendly site like CBeebies and create a user account for your child on the family computer or device which only allows access to sites you've chosen.

Help Them Learn Through Games - You can choose safe, fun and educational online games to play with your child and that you'll be confident about them exploring. You can find good free of charge examples from CBeebies and companies like Disney Junior, Nick Jr and Fisher Price.

Set Boundaries - It's never too early to start setting boundaries. Set some rules about how long your child can spend online.

Although our children do not use tablets or devices at nursery as part of their everyday interactions, will be learning about how to use the internet safely during January.



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Home Learning Ideas

Here are some ideas you could try with your child this month...

Go on a winter walk with an adult and see how things have changed since the Autumn.

Draw a pattern to design a scarf or make one, using fabric scraps or other collage materials.

Talk about some animals that live in cold places. Find out what they like to eat and how they make their homes.

On winter mornings, the ground is often covered with frost. Talk about where this has come from or investigate what happens to ice in warm places.

Try making our seasonal recipe of the month! Send us a photo of your efforts via ParentZone!!

Don't forget to send us a photo of your home learning via ParentZone.



ParentZone

Spring Term 2024 Dates for your diary...

We re-open at 8am - Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 8th January 2024

All About Me – Emailed to parents w/c 8th January

Children's Mental Health Week – Monday 5th – Friday 9th February

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 9th February

Term Time Only children return on Monday 19th February

Chatter Matters Week – Monday 4th – Friday 8th March (Details to follow)

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March (Details to follow)

Mother's Day Brunch / Afternoon Tea – Friday 8th March (Details to follow)

Red Nose Day - Friday 15th March (Details to follow)

Spring Stay & Play – Saturday 16th March; 10am-12pm

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 22nd March

Easter Closure – 6pm 28th March

We re-open at 8am – Tuesday 2nd April

Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 8th April

Christmas Jumper Day – Thank you

Thank you for your kind donations. We raised £45 for Save the Children.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Have your say!

This monthly newsletter is for all of our families at nursery, but we want it to benefit you. Is there anything that you feel we could include that you would find helpful? Is there anything that you would like to know that would also be useful to other families? Please email the office with any ideas. Thank you.



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Leadership Focus

At nursery, we have several staff who take a leadership role. To raise their profile with parents and celebrate the good work that they do, each month we are going to highlight a different role and provide you with some information.

This month it is our Makaton Champions: Lauren & Tiffany

At Caldecote, Tiffany (Pre-School) and Lauren (Babies) are our Makaton Champions. They are trained to use Makaton and support other staff to use it on a daily basis with all the children in nursery.

What is Makaton? Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.

Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Almost everything we do involves communication; everyday tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drink, sorting out problems, making friends and having fun. These all rely on our ability to communicate with each other.

With Makaton, signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear. Using symbols can help people who have limited speech, limited hearing and those who cannot, or prefer not to sign.

For those who have experienced the frustration of being unable to communicate meaningfully or effectively, Makaton really can help. Makaton takes away that frustration and enables individuals to connect with other people and the world around them. This opens up all kinds of possibilities.

 Makaton at Caldecote. Here are some signs that we use every day.	 hello / goodbye	 mummy	 daddy
	 milk	 eat	 drink
 stop	 good / well done	 please	 thank you
 help	 more	 finished	 sleep
 nappy	 toilet		

At Caldecote, our children may learn a range of Makaton signs as part of their learning interests and this may also include songs and rhymes, but we all focus on 16 key signs that we use on a day to day basis to help the communication of our children.

If you wish to use these at home, a copy of this poster is available on our website or please ask staff for a paper copy if you wish.



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This month's seasonal recipe to try at home...

Creamy lentil & veggie curry



Try these easy recipes with your child to get them involved and interested in food! Cooking together is a good way to connect.

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp rapeseed oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tbsp Madras curry powder
- 200g red lentils
- 2 sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into cubes
- 1l veg stock
- 400g canned peeled cherry tomatoes
- 200g green beans, trimmed and cut into short lengths
- 4 tbsp Greek yogurt plus more for the top if you like
- ½ small bunch coriander, chopped
- ¼ cucumber, finely chopped (optional)
- naan bread and rice to serve



Method:

1. Heat the oil in a large pan and fry the onion for a few mins until softened.
2. Add the spices and cook for 1 min, then stir in the lentils, sweet potatoes, stock and the cherry tomatoes.
3. Bring to the boil, then cover and simmer for 20 mins until the lentils and sweet potatoes are tender.
4. Add the beans and cook for 2 mins then stir in the yogurt and some seasoning.
5. Sprinkle over the coriander and chopped cucumber if using and serve with naan bread and rice.

Family Information Service (FIS)

We are a free information and signposting service for families with children and young people aged 0 – 25 and professionals working with families in Warwickshire. We cover a wide range of family related topics such as:

- childcare
- mediation and contact
- divorce and separation
- finance
- health
- bullying
- support groups
- parenting support



If you have an enquiry, contact us by:

- Telephone - 01926 742274
- Email - FIS@warwickshire.gov.uk
- Facebook - @WarwickshireFIS
- Twitter - @WarksFIS



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We will be offering the expanded funding in April 2024, and will provide more information of how we will offer this in new year, once WCC have confirmed the details.


EARLY YEARS ENTITLEMENTS EXPANSION

These new entitlements will be known as the **'Working parent entitlement'**






Supporting families with childcare costs



Find out more at childcarechoices.gov.uk

HOW MANY HOURS OF CHILDCARE CAN YOU GET PER WEEK?

Age 3-4 years				Age 2 years				Age 9-23 months	
ALL PARENTS				FAMILIES RECEIVING SOME ADDITIONAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT SUPPORT				WORKING FAMILIES	
15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	30 HOURS
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	SEP 2024	SEP 2025
WORKING FAMILIES				WORKING FAMILIES					
30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	30 HOURS	15 HOURS	15 HOURS	30 HOURS			
Now	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025	APR 2024	SEP 2024	SEP 2025			



*38 weeks a year. Eligibility criteria apply. Providers may ask for additional charges.



The entitlement starts from the term after the child has attained the relevant age.

A valid eligibility code from HMRC will be required



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Our December Learning...



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