



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter March 2022

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's Interests, World Book Day, Science, Spring**

This month's Value: **Creativity**

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children's wellbeing is paramount for us at nursery. This month we are highlighting FIS (Family Information Service) in Warwickshire, who can support with many situations.

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

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/fis>

Early Help

Early Help is the support we offer to potentially vulnerable children, young people and their families.

The purpose of Early Help is to put in the right support at the right time so that problems are less likely to escalate to a point where the child becomes vulnerable or in need. Early Help is sustainable so that problems are less likely to re-occur.

Early Help does not always mean early years. While research does show that most impact can be made in those crucial first few years of a child's life, Early Help can be needed and put in place at any time and at any age. All children, young people and families in Warwickshire are entitled to receive Early Help. This means offering information, advice, guidance, and support to families as soon as a concern emerges, or seems likely to emerge.

If you feel that you or your family could benefit from Early Help, please see us at the office and we will be happy to put the right support in place.

Congratulations to the **Baby Room Team** who were voted by their colleagues as 'The Room of The Month' in February for their dedication and hard work in providing amazing invitations to learning, inspired by The Curiosity Approach. Well done!



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Covid 19 – Stepping Down Measures from Tuesday 1st March – DfE Guidelines

From 1st March, the following restrictions will be lifted at nursery:

- Face coverings will no longer be mandatory for staff, however, some parents, carers and staff may choose to continue wearing these, particularly if there are cases within the nursery or they are in a vulnerable group.
- Staff are no longer required to lateral flow test.

The DfE guidance requests that settings maintain the following:

- A regular cleaning regime within nursery.
- Good hand hygiene for staff and children.
- Good respiratory hygiene (Catch It, Bin It, Kill It).
- Good ventilation within occupied spaces.

We request that parents take the following actions if their child has symptoms of Covid:

- Do not send your child into nursery if they are unwell and notify us as soon as possible.
- Do not send your child to nursery if key symptoms are exhibited and complete a Covid-19 test.
- Do not send your child to nursery if they test positive for Covid-19 and notify us as soon as possible.
- If a parent insists on a child attending nursery where they have a confirmed or suspected case, we may take the decision to refuse the child if, in our reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other children and staff from possible infection with Covid-19.
- If your child is positive, self-isolate for at least 5 days from the date of a positive test or the start of symptoms.
- Complete lateral flow tests on day 5 and 6. If still positive continuing testing until you receive two consecutive days of negative results or self-isolate until day 10.

This advice may seem a little contradictory, as the Government seem to be stopping access to free lateral flow devices, but the DfE guidance has not taken account of this. Further advice can be found online of what to do if you suspect someone has Covid-19.

We will continue to risk assess the changing situation within our community. There are currently no cases in nursery, however, the likelihood is that cases of Covid will flare up from time to time and we may need to put in some temporary restrictions to minimise the spread. Hopefully, over the next few months, the Covid situation will settle down further and we will be able to get back to a pre-Covid way of life. We appreciate your continued support with this and would like to take this opportunity to thank every family for being so supportive during this difficult time.

Fees: Please note that we are increasing our fees from April 1st. There will be an increase to our standard charges, Club Caldecote charges and our lunches. A full breakdown of the fees can be found as an attachment to your March invoice and will be updated on our website in due course. This is our first fee increase since September 2020. We fully understand the issues surrounding the cost of living at the moment and are very aware of the impact that this is having on our families. If you are concerned about being able to pay your fees and would like some advice or support on this matter, please come and see us in the office, where we will be happy to talk things through with you.



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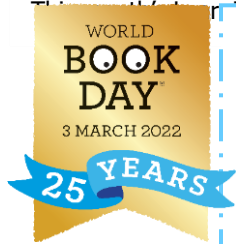
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World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March

We will be celebrating World Book Day again this year and next month you will receive a book token which can be used to redeem a free special edition World Book Day book or can be used to get £1 off a book of your choice.

To celebrate, we would like staff and children to come dressed up as a character from their favourite book, to celebrate 25 years of this special event!



Red Nose Day – Friday 18th March 2022

To support this wonderful cause, we will be asking staff and children to wear something red for the day and take part in some 'Love Monster' themed learning to highlight the work that the charity do.

Suggested donation is £1.



Stay & Play – Saturday 26th March 2022; 10am-12pm

We are delighted to be hosting our Spring Stay & Play for families. As covid restrictions have relaxed, we will not be dividing the session into slots, but for the purposes of health and safety, we kindly ask that you let staff know in the coming weeks, if you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you!

Home Learning Ideas

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

Share your favourite stories or books, taking time to talk about the pictures and characters.

Do something kind for your mum, grandma or other female relative to show you care.

Go on a walk and look for the signs of spring. What are they? What colours can you see?

Try some basic science investigations at home. Mix baking powder with vinegar and see what happens. Try finding things that are magnetic or non-magnetic. Investigate floating and sinking. Blow bubbles and try to pop them.

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



ParentZone

Spring Term 2022 Dates for your diary...

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March (Come dressed as a book character!)

Chatter Matters Week – Monday 14th – Friday 18th March

Toddler Parent Meetings – Tuesday 15th March (By appointment)

Pre-School Parent Meetings – Wednesday 16th March (By appointment)

Baby Parent Meetings – Thursday 17th March (By appointment)

Red Nose Day – Friday 18th March (Wear something red!)

Spring Stay & Play – Saturday 26th March; 10am-12pm

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 8th April

Easter Closure – 6pm Thursday 14th April

We re-open at 8am – Tuesday 19th April

Term Time Only children return on Monday 25th April

Parent / Nursery Meetings

Parent / Nursery Meetings are a great way to have some time chatting about your child with our staff. We will be holding these over the telephone again this term.

Tuesday 15th March – Toddler Room Appointments

Wednesday 16th March – Pre-School Room Appointments

Thursday 17th March – Baby Room Appointments

Please see staff from your room at either drop off or pick-up time to arrange an appointment.



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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 Time To Talk Champion:

At Caldecote, Carly is our Time to Talk Champion, although Poonam and Cheryl are also trained in Time to Talk to the same level. **'time to talk'**™ is Warwickshire's strategy for supporting the development of speech, language and communication skills of babies and young children in Children's Centres, Early Years and Childcare settings.

Carly takes the lead on developing excellent practice in the staff team. She has a screening tool to measure children's speech, language and communication skills, and responds to the needs of children and families by providing support when needed. Carly also ensures that information about speech and language development is available to families, and, along with the SEND team, she oversees specific interventions for children who are finding it more difficult to learn to talk. Carly also has a role in developing the environment at nursery, so that it is 'communication-friendly'.

Each year the Time to Talk champions promote speech and language through a focused 'Chatter Matters' week, where we provide activities in nursery and for families at home, to support in the development of speech and language.

Top Tips for developing speech and language at home...

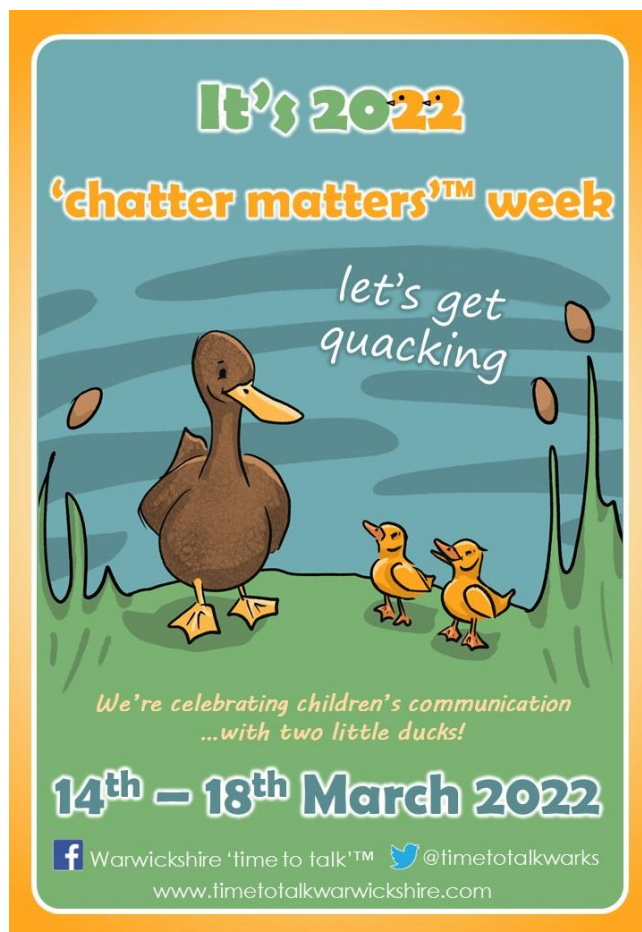
Being face to face: It's never too early to start a conversation, giving full eye contact and completely tuned in to each other. This is laying really strong foundations for the baby's emotions.

Following your child's lead: This is one of the best ways to build your child's attention and listening skills. If you follow what they are looking at or touching, you are joining in with their focus. This helps them to stay focused for longer. You are also supporting their emotional development by showing them that you are interested, that you have time for them, and that they matter.

Keeping it simple: Babies learn from conversation, and they learn most when the language they hear is at their level – not too much, and not too quick!

Adding words: Everyday routines are a great time to chat. Especially at a time when you can be face to face, during a nappy change. Even a chore like doing the washing up can be a time to hear lots of words.

Repeat, repeat, repeat: We know that repetition helps children to learn. Singing rhymes and songs is a great way to keep children's interest – they often like to hear the same song over and over (and over!) again! They learn to recognise the rhythm, the actions as well as the words.



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

Perfect Pancakes for Shrove Tuesday!



Some families recently have noted that their children are becoming picky eaters. Try making this easy recipe with your child to get them involved with the preparation and then hopefully they will be more willing to tuck in!

Ingredients:

- 100g plain flour
- 2 eggs
- 300ml semi-skimmed milk
- 1 tbsp sunflower oil or vegetable, plus extra for frying
- pinch salt

Method:

1. Put 100g plain flour and a pinch of salt into a large mixing bowl
2. Make a well in the centre and crack 2 eggs into the middle.
3. Pour in about 50ml from the 300ml of semi-skimmed milk and 1 tbsp sunflower oil then start whisking from the centre, gradually drawing the flour into the eggs, milk and oil. Once all the flour is incorporated, beat until you have a smooth, thick paste. Add a little more milk if it is too stiff to beat.
4. Add a good splash of milk and whisk to loosen the thick batter. While still whisking, pour in a steady stream of the remaining milk. Continue pouring and whisking until you have a batter that is the consistency of slightly thick single cream.
5. Heat the pan over a moderate heat, then wipe it with oiled kitchen paper.
6. Ladle some batter into the pan, tilting the pan to move the mixture around for a thin and even layer. Quickly pour any excess batter into the mixing bowl, return the pan to the heat.
7. Leave to cook, undisturbed, for about 30 secs. If the pan is the right temperature, the pancake should turn golden underneath after about 30 secs and will be ready to turn.
8. Hold the pan handle, ease a palette knife under the pancake, then quickly lift and flip it over. Make sure the pancake is lying flat against the base of the pan with no folds, then cook for another 30 secs before turning out onto a warm plate.
9. Continue with the rest of the batter, serving them as you cook or stack onto a plate. *You can freeze the pancakes for 1 month, wrapped in cling film or make them up to a day ahead.*



Lost Property: We have had a lot of lost property in nursery this month; hats, gloves, coats etc. While we do our best to remember who is wearing what, it is much easier to reunite children with their belongings, if they are named! It only takes a moment, so please ensure that your child's belongings, including bags have their name on. This has proved especially tricky in the last few weeks where staff have needed to work in different rooms across the setting, due to covid absences, with children who are not always able to communicate what belongs to them. Thank you.



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Our February Learning...



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