



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter March 2024

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's interests, Chatter Matters, World Book Day, Mother's Day, British Science Week, Easter** 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.



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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.

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!!

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



ParentZone

Spring Term 2024 Dates for your diary...

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

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

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 Thursday 28th March

We re-open at 8am – Tuesday 2nd April

Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 8th April

Naming Clothing

We have **lots** of lost property at nursery but items are far more likely to be returned to you if they are named, so please pop your child's name in their shoes, coat, hat, gloves, scarf and any other item they are likely to take off independently.

Thank you.



50 Things to do before you are five!

Warwickshire launched this wonderful app with ideas of things to do with your children before the age of five.

Once the app has launched, you can select the Warwickshire region and as well as providing links to activities to do at home, it will also give you information about books to share linked to the activity, key words and phrases to use, local events and much more! To download the app visit your app store or use the link below:

<https://warwickshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!50thingstodobefore5/welcome>

50

things to do

before you're

five



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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 Curiosity Approach Champion: Pamela

UNVEILING THE 6 STAGES OF PLAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

Unoccupied Play: 0-3 Months

During the first few months of life, infants engage in 'unoccupied' play, a stage characterised by their awe-inspiring discovery of their hands, body and surroundings. The very first toy of a baby, is the discovery of their fingers and toes. Babies don't need expensive toys or to be entertained by gadgets, baby gyms or paraphernalia. They need the freedom and opportunity to play.

Solitary Play: 0-2 Years

Solitary play marks a period when children are content to immerse themselves in independent play. It is a time when their imagination blossoms, and they engage in self-directed activities. During this stage, children become architects of their play, creating stories, experimenting with objects, and exploring their surroundings with uninhibited curiosity.

Onlooker Play: 2 Years

At around two years old, children enter the onlooker play stage, where they observe other children engaging in play without actively participating. This stage is crucial for developing social awareness and communication skills. As little observers, they absorb valuable insights into the dynamics of play, learning from their peers' actions and interactions.

Parallel Play: 2+ Years

Parallel play is a captivating stage where children play alongside or near others without direct interaction. It is a bridge between solitary play and more socially interactive stages. During parallel play, children may acknowledge the presence of their peers, but they maintain their focus on individual activities.

Associate Play: 3-4 Years

Around the ages of three to four, children begin to embrace associate play, a stage characterised by interacting and playing with others. They engage in joint activities, share ideas, and collaborate on imaginative play scenarios. This stage marks a significant leap in social development as children start to understand the concept of shared experiences and build relationships through play.

Cooperative Play: 4+ Years

Finally, the stage of cooperative play emerges around the age of four and beyond, representing the pinnacle of social engagement and collaboration. Children actively play with others, adhering to rules, sharing responsibilities, and working together toward common goals. This stage is characterised by teamwork, problem-solving, and the development of complex relationships within the context of play.

Find out more at: <https://www.thecuriosityapproach.com>



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



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Easy Hot Cross Muffins



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

Ingredients:

- 100g butter / baking margarine
- 150g soft brown sugar
- 250g self-raising flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 250ml milk
- 175g mixed dried fruit
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon mixed spice

For the decoration:

- 2 tablespoons icing sugar
- Boiling water

Method:

1. Preheat your oven to 180C / 170C Fan / 350F and line a muffin tin with paper cases.
2. Cream the butter and sugar using a hand held mixer or wooden spoons, until they are light and fluffy.
3. Add the flour and baking powder to your mixing bowl and mix them in. The mixture will be quite dry and stiff at this point.
4. Add the eggs giving them a quick whisk before adding them to the mixing bowl and then add the milk.
5. Finally, measure out the spices and dried fruit then add them to your mixing bowl.
6. Using a spatula or wooden spoon, stir it all in until the fruit is well mixed through.
7. Divide the muffin mixture among your muffin cases
8. Bake the muffins for 20-22 minutes. They are ready when they've turned a nice golden brown colour and a cocktail stick inserted into the middle comes out clean.
9. Remove the muffins from the oven, and leave them to cool in the tin for a few minutes before popping them on a wire rack to cool completely.
10. Mix the icing sugar with a little boiling water so that it is smooth but not too runny. Add it to a small piping bag, or simply pop it into a freezer bag and snip a small hole in the corner.
11. Pipe the crosses on each of the muffins
12. Leave the icing to set then serve and enjoy.



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IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



Thursday 7th March 2024

To celebrate, we are inviting all staff and children to come dressed in pyjamas and enjoy some bedtime stories.

Everyone is welcome to bring a book to share while we have warm milk with cookies and snuggle under blankets!

CELEBRATE STORIES. LOVE READING.



Mother's Day Celebrations!

Friday 8th March 2024

You are invited to celebrate your day with us at either one of our two events:

10:00-11:00am - Mother's Day Brunch
2:00-3:00pm - Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

As well as having some refreshments, you will be able to take part in arts and crafts activities with your child, finished off with some singing and stories.

If you wish to join us for the celebrations, please book your space via the office. If your child does not usually attend on a Friday and you wish to come along and celebrate, then you are welcome to do so by contacting the office. Details shown below...

(01788 542337 or info@caldecotedaynursery.co.uk)

Booking is essential as spaces are limited!

wear something 'red' or 'funny' for money on **Red Nose Day!** Please remember to donate at least **£1!**



RED NOSE DAY

Friday 15th March 2024

Please join us to...

Stay and Play!

On Saturday 16th March
10am - 12pm

Please let staff know if you wish to attend!




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Please note that we are increasing our fees from April 1st 2024. Details shown below...

Standard Charges (non-funded sessions)			
	Birth – 3 Years	3 Years +	
Full time (8am-6pm, Monday – Friday)	£290	£270	Including breakfast, snacks and tea.
Full day (8am-6pm)	£58	£54	Including breakfast or tea and snacks.
Half Day (8am – 1pm or 1pm – 6pm)	£29	£27	Including breakfast or tea and snacks.
Early Years Entitlement Expansion - 15 Hours Nursery Education Funding for working families of 2 year olds Up to 15 hours per week; 38 weeks per year Standard Charges apply for the remaining 13 weeks per year			
2 Year Olds			
Funded Half Day (8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm) 5 hours per session – fully funded	£0		Including breakfast or tea and snacks.
Shorter Day (9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm) 3 hours per session - fully funded	£0		Including snacks. We have limited spaces for these sessions.
Early Years Universal Entitlement - 15 Hours Nursery Education Funding for all 3 & 4 year olds Up to 15 hours per week; 38 weeks per year Standard Charges apply for the remaining 13 weeks per year			
3 & 4 Year Olds			
Full time (8am-6pm, Monday – Friday) 50 hours per week - 15 funded hours & 35 hours additional care	£159		Including breakfast or tea and snacks.
Full Day (8am-6pm) 10 hours per day - 6 funded hours & 4 hours additional care	£24		Including breakfast or tea and snacks.
Half Day (8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm) 5 hours per session - 3 funded hours & 2 hours additional care	£12		Including breakfast or tea and snacks.
Shorter Day (9am-12pm or 1pm-4pm) 3 hours per session - fully funded	£0		Including snacks. We have limited spaces for these sessions. Please see staff for details.
Lunch Club (for those accessing the Shorter Day who also wish to stay during the lunch hour. These places are limited.)	£6 per hour		This lunch fee is charged outside the standard service model.
Early Years Education Funding – 30 Hours Nursery Education Funding for working families of 3 & 4 year olds Up to 30 hours per week; 38 weeks per year Standard Charges apply for the remaining 13 weeks per year			
3 & 4 Year Olds			
Full 5 Days (8am-6pm, Monday – Friday) 50 hours per week - 30 funded hours & 20 hours additional care	£145		Including breakfast, snacks and tea.
Any 4 Days (8am-6pm, Monday – Friday) 40 hours per week - 24 funded hours & 16 hours additional care	£116		Including breakfast, snacks and tea.
Any 3 Days (8am-6pm, Monday – Friday) 30 hours per week - 18 funded hours & 12 hours additional care	£87		Including breakfast, snacks and tea.
30 Hours (9am – 3pm; Monday – Friday) 6 hours per session - fully funded	£0		Including snacks. We have limited spaces for these sessions. Please see staff for details.
Club Caldecote Holiday Care Reception – Year Six			
Full Day (8am-6pm)	£36		Includes breakfast, snacks and tea.
Half Day (8am-1pm or 1pm-6pm)	£18		Including snacks and either breakfast or tea.
In all the models shown, this is charged at an additional £2.50 per day or children may bring a lunch from home. This can be cold food which we store in the fridge or food that needs to be reheated before serving.			



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Our February Learning...



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