



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter April 2023

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's Interests, Spring & Easter**

This month's Value: **Caring**



www.thecuriosityapproach.com

- 🎉 We are delighted to announce that we are now a fully accredited 'The Curiosity Approach' setting! We are one of the first in Warwickshire (and the first in Rugby) to achieve this and are hugely proud to be part of something so special.
- 👏 Our staff, supported by our children and you, our parents, have worked hard in the last few years to totally transform our setting into a place of wonder; where children can fulfil our vision of being independent, adept, expressive, confident, broad-minded, unique and, of course, curious learners!
- 🙏 Many thanks to everyone who has helped us along the way. We are grateful for the love and support you have shown us.
- 🎊 In traditional Caldecote style, we will of course mark the occasion with a special celebration - details to follow...



Savanna (Baby Room) has been appointed as our Curiosity Approach Champion to support staff in maintaining high standards, to support new staff in understanding how we work and to help inform parents of the benefits of the approach. Look out for information on newsletters and on our Facebook page.



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Safeguarding

If your child attends nursery by car, they must have an appropriate car seat. Here is some information to help you understand the rules...

UK law states that children must use a child car seat until they're 12 years old or 135cm/4ft 5in tall, whichever comes first. However, safety experts recommend that you use a child car seat for all children under 150cm/4ft 11in. Buying the wrong child car seat could mean you're putting your child's life at risk, while also breaking the law.

Weight-based child car seats: Most child car seats are split into groups according to the weight of the child they're designed to protect. These groups are defined by United Nations safety regulations and cover children from birth all the way up to 12 years old or 135cm (around 36kg). Moving babies and younger children to the next group before they reach the maximum weight or height for their seat could lead to more severe injuries in a crash. It's also against the law to put your child in a seat that's inappropriate.

Height-based car seats: i-Size is part of the European child car seat regulation R129, which came into force in the UK at the beginning of April 2015. i-Size car seats go by height instead of weight. A true i-Size car seat will only use Isofix connectors, although some baby car seats can still be installed in your car using the car's adult seatbelt. It's mandatory for a baby to be rear-facing in an i-Size seat until he or she is 15 months old. i-Size car seats will fit all i-Size-certified cars and almost all cars with Isofix. Check with the car manufacturer to see in which position you can use an i-Size car seat in your vehicle.



Age range (approx.)	Weight / Height	Child Restraint Type	
Birth to 9-12 months	Up to 13kgs	Baby / Infant Carrier	
9 months to 4 years	9kgs to 18kgs	Child Seat	
4 years to 11 years	15kgs upwards	Booster Seat	
6 years to 11 years	From 22kgs	Booster Seat	
Over 12 years	135cms or above	Adult Seat Belt	

Fees: Please note that we are increasing our fees from April 1st 2023.

As an early years education and care provider, we are not immune to the rising costs which we are all facing at the moment. These have been compounded even further by the ongoing recruitment crisis we have faced since Covid-19, the planned 9.7% increase to the National Minimum Wage and the continued Government underfunding of the Early Years sector. We have been so fortunate to be able to retain many of our well-trained, high quality staff - however this comes at a significant cost to our business. We are fully in support of paying our staff a fair and industry-leading wage, which we do. Whilst we continually absorb many costs, some have to be passed onto our parents in the form of an increase in fees. 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 your finances 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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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 Champion: Lauren

At Caldecote, Tiffany (Pre-School – currently on Maternity Leave) and Lauren (Toddlers) 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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Home Learning Ideas

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

Take a Spring walk and see how many different colours of flowers you can see.

Be curious about Easter and take part in some Easter themed activities such as egg decorating or making an Easter bonnet.

Share a book with someone and talk about what you can see on each page.

Develop your Makaton skills by using our poster to learn the signs we use at nursery.

Enjoy being in the fresh air in your garden or in the park. Play chasing games, use chalks to create art or engage in water play with a tub of water and some kitchen utensils / jugs / cups!

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



Red Nose Day 2023

Thank you for your donations. We raised £60 for Red Nose Day!

Spring Term 2023 Dates for your diary...

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 31st March

Easter Closure – 6pm Thursday 6th April

We re-open at 8am – Tuesday 11th April

Term Time Only children return on Monday 17th April

Summer Term 2023 Dates for your diary...

Bank Holiday Closure – Monday 1st May

King's Coronation Party Celebrations – w/c 2nd May

King's Coronation Parties – Friday 5th May

Babies & Toddlers – 11:30am – 1pm / Pre-School 1:30pm – 3pm

(If your child does not usually attend on this day, they may attend for the party)

Bank Holiday Closure – Monday 8th May

Concept Photography – Wednesday 17th May; 9am – 2pm

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 26th May

Bank Holiday Closure – Monday 29th May

Term Time Only children return on Monday 5th June

Be Proud of Who You Are Week – 19th – 23rd June

200 Years of Rugby Celebrations – 26th – 30th June

Pre-School Graduation – Thursday 6th July (timings tbc)

Summer Stay & Play – Saturday 8th July; 10am-12pm

Nursery Sports Day – Wednesday 12th July; 10am & 2pm

Pre-School Farewell Party – Thursday 20th July 1:30-3:00pm

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 21st July

(Further details of the events above will follow...)

Pre-School Children Leaving For School This Summer: Just to remind you that National Offer Day is Monday 17th April. This is when you will find out which school place you have been allocated. You then have until Tuesday 2nd May to either accept or decline the offer that you have been made. Once you know and have accepted the place, please let the office or Pre-School Staff know, as we will need to pass transition information on to the schools. Thank you.



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

Easter Brownie Bites – makes 24



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

Ingredients:

- 175g butter, chopped
- 150g dark chocolate
- 250g light brown soft sugar
- 85g self-raising flour
- 50g cocoa powder
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 100g milk chocolate chips
- 24 mini chocolate eggs, plus extra to decorate

Method:

1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4.
2. Line 24 holes of a mini muffin tray with paper cases.
3. Put the butter, dark chocolate and sugar in a pan and heat it very gently, stirring all the time until the butter and chocolate have melted.
4. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a few mins.
5. Meanwhile, sift the flour, cocoa and a good pinch of salt into a large bowl.
6. Stir in the warm, melted chocolate mixture and the beaten eggs, then add half the chocolate chips and mix until just combined.
7. Divide the mixture between the cases and place a mini egg into the middle of each muffin, pushing down gently. Bake for 12-15 mins until cooked but still gooey in the centre – they will continue cooking a little as they cool down.
8. Leave to cool for 10 mins in the tin before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.
9. Melt the rest of the chocolate chips in short bursts in the microwave, or in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring frequently.
10. Leave to cool until it is quite thick, then dot a small amount on each cake and stick on some more mini eggs.



Easter Craft Competition!

Thank you to all the families that entered...we had some lovely examples of Easter crafts!

Prizes all round!



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Spring Stay & Play...



Stay & Play



Parent Learning Reflection

As always, we are keen to keep in touch with parents, listen to and address any concerns you may have, as well as taking on board any advice and suggestions on how we can improve our service. With that in mind, we kindly ask that you take the time to complete our parent feedback form by clicking the link below. If you have more than one child in nursery, please feel free to complete this more than once.

<https://forms.office.com/r/DL4ErPRHQH>



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Important Parent Notices / Reminders

Snacks and drinks in bags:

We are seeing a number of children attend nursery with snacks and sometimes a drink in their bag. While we are as vigilant as possible, we have noticed that sometimes other children may be looking in the bags and removing these snacks and drinks. As we have children in nursery with food allergies and intolerances, we have to be very mindful of what children can and cannot eat. Please could you refrain from not leaving snacks and drinks in bags so that we can ensure that all children are kept safe from any possible harm. Your child's bag need only contain spare clothes. Any creams / medicines etc should always be handed to staff.

Toys from home:

We would kindly ask that children do not bring toys in from home. We are seeing an increasing number of children bring in small and delicate items from home which are subsequently getting lost or broken. If your child requires a comforter, such as a soft toy or blanket, then of course this is fine to continue with. We request that all other toys are left at home or if your child brings them to the door to show a staff member, the toy then goes home with you again and doesn't come into nursery.

Absence:

If your child is poorly and not attending, please contact the office by 9:30am (if they attend in the morning) or 1:30pm (if they attend in the afternoon) so that we can update our registers. This is part of our safeguarding procedure to ensure that all children and families are safe.

Behaviour:

We kindly ask that parents listen to and take seriously the concerns that staff raise regarding the behaviour of their children. We aim to work consistently across the setting and also consistently with parents to support children and families with positive behaviour at nursery and at home. We require the co-operation of parents to reinforce positive behaviour messages at home and also to take on board the messages regarding challenging behaviour and the strategies that we put in place to support that.

Some staff have noticed that when information about negative behaviour is being shared with parents at the end of the session, a small minority of parents are dismissive of this, therefore undermining what the staff member has said. This is also occasionally happening in front of the child, which again undermines what the staff member is trying to communicate and makes our task of working alongside the child a little more challenging.

Thank you for your support in these matters.



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Our March Learning...



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