



# Caldecote Day Nursery



## Newsletter September 2023

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's Interests,**

This month's Value: **Belonging**



### Welcome to the Autumn Term 2023



We would like to welcome you to a new term at Caldecote Day Nursery!

We said a fond farewell to many of our Pre-School children in recent weeks and wish them all well as they begin the next chapter of their education at 'big-school!' We would also like to extend a huge welcome to families who are just starting with us. We are so pleased that you have chosen Caldecote Day Nursery and hope that you and your child enjoy your time here.

As ever, September is the start of the academic year and a time where we reflect on what we have achieved previously and begin to look forwards at what we hope to achieve in the coming year. Here are some highlights of what we will be working on as a staff team:

Following the success of introducing our own curriculum and the milestones that sit alongside this, we will be reviewing and updating them to ensure that they fully reflect the needs of the children in this cohort and are challenging and aspirational.

Despite what you may have read in the national press about early years ratios, we will not be changing our ratios in our Toddler Room and will continue to ensure that the children get the best possible experience with as many adults on hand as possible to support learning.

We will also review the environments in which the children learn and further develop our practice in relation to The Curiosity Approach, ensuring that all children have the opportunity to learn in an environment that is engaging, well-resourced and of course, as curious as possible!

There have been a few changes to staffing this term as some practitioners have moved rooms. Our staffing structure is as follows:

**Baby Room** – Lauren T, Emma, Lauren P, Skye, Lexi

**Toddler Room** – Poonam, Sophie, Megan, Miranda, Shakira, Lily M

**Pre-School** – Lilly, Rachael, Kirsty, Tiffany, Amy, Sarah, Kayleigh, Ellie, Tibi

**Club Caldecote (Holiday Club)** – Pre-School staff as required.

**Nursery Office** – Pamela, Mariana & Laura.

Alice and Leanne are currently on maternity leave.



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### Safeguarding: Coats in Car Seats

Please consider the danger you may be putting your child in when travelling in the car this Autumn / Winter.

The temperature is beginning to drop outside, and children are being bundled up in thicker winter coats to keep them snug and warm in the colder weather. But did you know that you are supposed to remove your child's coat before you strap them into their car seat, and not doing so may put them in danger?

Leaving your child's coat on in the car is a problem because it creates a gap between your child and their safety harness. In a collision, the harness isn't as close to your child's body as it needs to be to allow it to properly restrain them. To keep your children safe in the car, remove their coats and jackets and pull the harness tight enough that you can just get two fingers between your child and the straps.

Children will still feel a chill when they first get in the car so to keep them warm, remove children's coats and jackets, and strap them into their car seat properly - then tuck a blanket around them. Your child will be able to remove the blanket if they get too hot, which they cannot do when they have their coat on, this can lead to them overheating.

### Home Learning Ideas

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

Watch how your children play...do they have repetitive behaviours, such as posting items, rolling things or lining things up? Follow their interests and provide them with household items to extend this interest.

Take a walk and look at the changing season. Talk about the trees and the leaves, how they look and even how they feel.

Use natural materials to make a collection or treasure basket. Let younger children explore the materials and sort them into categories with older children, leaves, sticks, pine-cones. Sort them by colour and count them.

Try making our seasonal recipe of the month and let us know how it tastes!

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



ParentZone

### Autumn Term 2023 Dates for your diary...

**Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

**Grandparent's Day celebrations – 29.09.23; 2-3pm**

**Harvest donations collected – w/c 02.10.23 & 09.10.23**

**World Mental Health Day – 10.10.23**

**NSPCC Pantosaurus Week – w/c 16.10.22**

**Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**World Nursery Rhyme Week – w/c 13.11.23**

**Children In Need – 17.11.23**

**Stay & Play – 02.12.23**

**Christmas Jumper Day – 08.12.23**

**Christmas Parties – 08.12.23 (details to follow)**

**Christmas Singalongs – w/c 11.12.23 (details to follow)**

**Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**



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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**

### You may be aware that we are a Curiosity Approach Accredited Setting...but what is it about?

Instead of directing children, and telling them what to do, the curiosity approach is based on child-led learning. Therefore, children make their own choices, and figure things out for themselves which leads to enhanced confidence, critical thinking, and problem solving skills.

### Where does this approach come from?

The Curiosity Approach was founded by Stephanie Barrett and Lyndsey Heller who have 50 years experience in childcare between them. The approach draws ideas from other philosophies of early education including Reggio Emilia, Montessori, Pikler, and Steiner. It aims to create children who are 'thinkers and doers' instead of passive learners who simply follow the direction of an adult. By creating active learners, children are more engaged in their environment and have a lot more fun. They are in charge of their own development and choose activities which play to their own interests. The Curiosity approach is a modern pedagogical approach and is exercised by over 4000 educators working in over 20 countries.

### What does it look like in practice?

A setting implementing the curiosity approach will look very different from a traditional setting. In contrast to the bright colours and paintings you would usually see at a nursery, these rooms are decorated in neutral tones. This creates a peaceful, tranquil environment which does not distract away from a child's learning but instead places full focus on the various loose items which children can play with. These resources are easily accessible in the room and are placed at eye-level. Children are challenged to use all of their senses to discover how something feels, sounds, and how they can interact with it. Children are essentially going back to basics and using their imagination to work out what the item is. As they are doing so without guidance, this increases their confidence and encourages them to think independently

Scan the QR code to find out even more about The Curiosity Approach, the benefits of it and how you can support your child at home.

**PARENT**  
*Pocket-Size*

**PARENTS!**  
SCAN THE  
CODE TO  
ACCESS

*The Curiosity Approach* **EXPLAINED**  
FIND OUT HOW THE TECHNOLOGICAL AGE IS  
IMPACTING OUR CHILDREN AND HOW THE  
APPROACH WILL IMPACT ON YOUR CHILDS'  
HAPPINESS, CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY,  
IMAGINATION AND PLAY.



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**As we continue to provide opportunities for our children to learn with 'real-life' resources as part of The Curiosity Approach, we sometimes need to stock up! We would be grateful for donations of anything on the list below. Thank you!**



Metal Items	Wooden Items	Loose Parts	Miscellaneous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cups</li> <li>• Beakers</li> <li>• Teapots</li> <li>• Bowls / dishes</li> <li>• Ornaments</li> <li>• Spoons</li> <li>• Plant pots</li> <li>• Old fashioned weighing scales with weights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowls</li> <li>• Spoons</li> <li>• Ornaments</li> <li>• Small shelving units</li> <li>• Logs</li> <li>• Log slices</li> <li>• Nest of tables</li> <li>• Wood offcuts</li> <li>• Boxes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corks</li> <li>• Shells</li> <li>• Pebbles / stones</li> <li>• Old CDs</li> <li>• Conkers / acorns</li> <li>• Curtain rings</li> <li>• Empty cotton reels</li> <li>• Bottle tops / lids</li> <li>• Pinecones</li> <li>• Feathers</li> <li>• Twigs</li> <li>• Tap washers</li> <li>• Coasters</li> <li>• Glass pebbles</li> <li>• Buttons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baskets</li> <li>• Kitchen utensils – potato mashers, spoons etc.</li> <li>• Photo frames without glass</li> <li>• Cardboard tubes</li> <li>• White tablecloths</li> <li>• China tea pots</li> <li>• Old radios / cameras / phones</li> <li>• Large cable reels</li> <li>• Blankets and cushions in neutral colours</li> <li>• Rugs in neutral colours</li> <li>• Any ethnic / cultural items that spark curiosity</li> <li>• Costume jewellery – bangles / beads</li> <li>• A typewriter</li> </ul>

## Caldecote Day Nursery



### Nursery Funding Entitlement for 2, 3 & 4 year olds

**2023/2024**

Autumn Term - 2023	Spring Term - 2024	Summer Term - 2024
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September – Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October <b>7 weeks</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February <b>5 weeks</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May <b>7 weeks</b>
Half Term: Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November <b>(no funding in this period)</b>	Half Term: Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February <b>(no funding in this period)</b>	Half Term: Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> June <b>(no funding in this period)</b>
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December <b>7 weeks</b>	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March <b>5 weeks</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July <b>7 weeks</b>
<b>Total weeks: 14</b>	<b>Total weeks: 10</b>	<b>Total weeks: 14</b>

Please note: Funding entitlement is for 38 weeks whereas school terms run for 39 weeks.



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

### Autumn Hedgehog Rolls – Makes 6



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

#### Ingredients:

- 500g pack brown bread mix
- 25g butter
- plain flour, for dusting
- 12 raisins
- 6 flaked almonds



#### Method:

1. Make the bread mixture with the butter following pack instructions. It's easiest to use a stand mixer but not difficult to do by hand. Leave the dough to rest for 5 mins, then knead for 5 mins.
2. Cut the dough into six pieces. Dust the surface with a little flour and shape each piece into a ball by rolling it between your hand. Now make it hedgehog-shaped by pulling one side out a little and squeezing it gently into a snout. Be quite firm or it will bounce back.
3. Put the hedgehogs on a baking sheet, cover with a damp tea towel and leave to rise for 1 hour.
4. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Using kitchen scissors (supervise younger children), carefully snip into the dough to make the spikes on the backs of the hedgehogs. Press raisins in for the eyes and push a flaked almond into the end of each snout.
5. Bake for 15 mins or until the rolls are risen and golden. Will keep for two days in an airtight container.



#### 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>



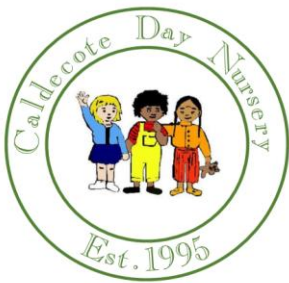
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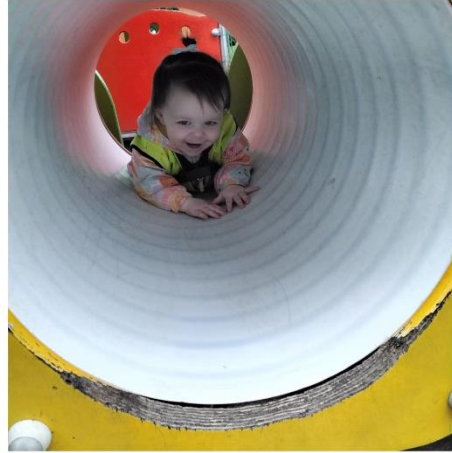


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### Our August Learning...



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