



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter March 2025

This month's Learning Focus: **Children's Interests, Pancake Day, World Book Day, Chatter Matters Week, Mother's Day** 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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Welcome to family

We hope that you have had the opportunity to log into the new app and familiarise yourself with all the amazing features that Family has to offer. We understand that it will take time to adapt to a new app, but it is really user friendly and there are lots of support guides to help you along the way. Some of our favourite features include:

Daily updates

As with our previous app, you will still receive daily updates about your child. These will include images of them engaging in learning, notifications about meals, bottles, nappies and sleep.

Tracking progress

We will continue to track the progress of your child and ensure they are meeting their milestones in all areas of the curriculum. Family has lots of additional materials to support learning which we can share to the timeline.

Say goodbye to forms!

If your child requires medicine when they are due to come in, you can fill out a medicine form before they arrive so there is no time wasted at handover at the door. This will be acknowledged by a member of staff and you will be notified when the medicine is administered.

Similarly, accidents and incidents will be published straight to the app and will simply require an acknowledgement through the app so that we know you are aware of the accident or incident.

Reporting sickness / absence

If your child is going to be on holiday or is poorly, you can also report this directly through the app. We would always ask for a reason if they are poorly, as we may need to notify other parents, but this will hopefully be easier than our current system.

Updating records

You will be able to update all information about your child and manage their permissions from the app. If there is a change of address, emergency contact or they develop an allergy, you will be able to add this to their profile so that all information is as up to date as possible.

Financial services

You will now be able to make nursery payments directly through the app with a debit card, credit card, via BACS or with nursery vouchers if your workplace still uses them. This in-app payment option means that as soon as the payment is made, your account will be updated to reflect this and you will instantly receive confirmation / a receipt. Family are also launching their partnership with HMRC in March to offer in-app payments from your Government Tax-Free Childcare account. As we have more information about this, we will let you know.



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Updates and Changes from September 2025

Expansion of funding:

- As you may be aware, from September 2025, eligible working parents will be able to claim 30 hours of funded childcare (in term time at Caldecote) per week from the term after their child turns 9 months until they reach school age.
- To be eligible, parents must earn at least the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the National Minimum or National Living Wage.
- Parents must have an adjusted net income of less than £100,000 per year.
- Further information on this can be found at:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/whats-new>

Childcare
Choices

Session Packages:

- In light of this expanded funding, we have updated the sessions that we will be offering from September 2025. These sessions will be available all year round and will be funded during term time and charged during holiday periods. If you require more hours than your funding covers, you will simply pay for the additional sessions you request.
- Further information on amending your bookings, requesting additional hours from September will follow in due course.
- The new packages from September 2025 are as follows:

Sessions / Hours		Standard Charges (outside of term time or in addition to funded hours)		30 / 15 Hours Funding (term time only)	Inclusive of:
Session		Birth – 3 Years	3 Years +	Birth – 3 Years +	For all ages
5 hrs	8:00am – 1:00pm	£31	£29	£0	Breakfast & snacks
5 hrs	1:00pm – 6:00pm	£31	£29	£0	Snacks
6 hrs	9:00am – 3:00pm	£37	£35	£0	Snacks
7.5 hrs	8:00am – 3.30pm	£46	£44	£0	Breakfast and snacks
10 hrs	8:00am – 6:00pm	£62	£58	£0	Breakfast and snacks



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Updates and Changes from September 2025 continued...

Meals:

- We are working hard to update our kitchen and look for a catering partner who will help us deliver even more wholesome and delicious food in the near future. We hope to get this service up and running as soon as possible, but it will definitely be in place for September 2025.
- These meals will be two courses at lunch and two at tea. As the tea will be more substantial than our current offering, there will be an additional charge for this.
- As with our current lunch system, families are welcome to provide food (adhering to our policies regarding healthy eating and allergens) if they do not wish to opt in to our meals.
- More exciting details on this will follow soon.



Holiday Discounts:

- As 95% of our families are currently accessing and will be accessing funded hours from September 2025 we will no longer be offering the 50% holiday discount.
- As we are a term time / out of term time setting, families are welcome to have two booking patterns to help keep costs down during those holiday times and book ad hoc sessions where required.
- These will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and we will happily book your child in for additional sessions providing that we have the staffing and the space.



World Book Day - Thursday 6th 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 or with a prop to represent a character from their favourite book. Feel free to bring the book along to share too!

We have also launched our own lending library for Babies & Toddlers! Please see your Room Leaders or Time to Talk Champions for more details and information about this scheme.



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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 making our seasonal recipe of the month! Send us a photo of your efforts via Family.

Become familiar with our new app and upload a photo or video of your child doing something at home. This can be anything you like – just something to help you navigate the new app!

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



Spring Term 2025 Dates for your diary...

All About Me – Emailed to parents w/c 6th January

(Please return these!)

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March (See previous page)

Mother's Day Family Fun Session – 18.03.25 (10-11am) & 20.03.25 (2-3pm)

Red Nose Day - Friday 21st March (See next page)

Chatter Matters Week – Monday 24th – Friday 28th March (Details to follow)

Stay & Play – Saturday 5th April; 10am-12pm (See below)

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 11th April

Easter Closure – 6pm Thursday 17th April

We re-open at 8am – Tuesday 22nd April

Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 28th April

Our full term dates calendar is available on our website:

<https://www.caldecotedaynursery.co.uk/parents>

Please join us to...

Stay & Play

On Saturday 5th April

10am – 12pm

Please let staff know if you wish to attend.



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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.

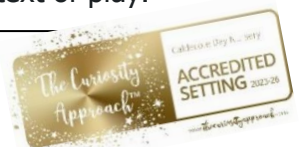
Associate Play: 3-4 Years

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>



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Family Focus: Encouraging Positive Behaviour

At nursery, we aim to work with parents and carers, supporting children in all aspects of their development and well-being. Each month we will highlight an area that parents and carers may be struggling with or need more information about.

This month our focus is: Encouraging Positive Behaviour

What are the typical factors that can influence a child's behaviour?

- Tiredness, hunger or thirst, the arrival of a new sibling, problems at home, issues of neglect, low self-esteem, peer pressure, issues of bereavement, feelings of stress or anxiety, trauma, being targeted or bullied, family conflict, parental issues, lack of routine, lack of structure and boundaries, absence of love or affection, medical reasons such as a disability, lack of parental supervision.

How can we start to support a child with challenging behaviour?

- Forming a positive, connected relationship with your child so they can feel like you are a safe space is key.
- Adults should aim to understand the behaviour and identify how best to connect with a child. Some children will avoid this as it is a defence mechanism. It will take time and patience but in many cases, behaviour is learned and therefore can be changed.

Which practical steps can we take to support behaviour?

- Firstly, take a look at the triggers that cause the challenging behaviour. Does this happen around a certain time of day? A particular activity? With certain people? How can we prevent the behaviour from escalating in the first place?
- Getting the response right is important so a child feels listened to and supported.

What are the key skills?

- Firstly – keep calm. If the adult loses control, then a problem can escalate. This is particularly true where the child has lost control themselves or is trying to provoke others. By being calm you can: listen effectively, see the situation from the child's point of view, think clearly about what should happen next and communicate effectively.
- Children need to learn to self-regulate and understand some of their 'big feelings'. Once they are regulated and out of their 'fight, flight, freeze, fawn' mode, they are more likely to hear what you are saying.
- Have clear and firm boundaries. Children will naturally test these, so be aware that this is a normal part of childhood.
- Have clear strategies and be consistent. If you say "Please do not kick the ball against the wall. If you do, I will need to take the ball away and give you something else to play with." and the behaviour persists, then follow through with what you said.
- Understand that it is normal and healthy for children to make mistakes and sometimes misbehave. Remember that there is more to the child than the challenges they present. Recognise that there is always a solution.

How can I deal with non-compliance?

- Remember to be clear from the start about what you will do if the child does not change the unwanted behaviour and communicate that intention clearly to them.
- Remember that adult attention and positive praise is very powerful, especially when it is unexpected or spontaneous.
- Praise your child for the think they are doing specifically "Great teeth brushing, " or "You put your socks on all by yourself," rather than 'Good job' or 'Well done.'. That way they know what the praise is for.
- Finding small ways to praise your child and build their self-esteem and confidence early on should help them to feel good about themselves and in turn build the connection with you which will mitigate non-compliance.

Would rewards help?

- As well as praise, tangible, low cost rewards can help to motivate and remind children about doing the right thing. Stickers, small toys or a food treat are good ways of encouraging children to remember to follow the clear and consistent boundaries in place.

There is lots more to supporting behaviour and many more strategies that can be used. If you are concerned that your child needs help to regulate or you have worries, please contact your Key Person or the office.



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

Perfect Shrove Tuesday Pancakes!



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

Ingredients:

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



Appropriate Clothing

Although the weather is getting slightly warmer, please ensure that your child has appropriate, well-fitting clothing as we still go out to the garden or park each day.

Red Nose Day – Friday 21st March

Wear something red and make a donation via our justgiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/caldecote-day-nursery-3?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL



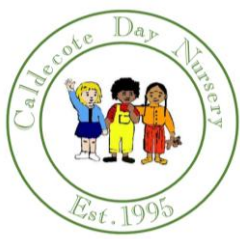
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Mother's Day Family Fun!

You, or another significant family female, are invited to celebrate your day with us at either one of our two events:

Tuesday 18th March - 10:00-11:00am

Thursday 20th March 2:00-3:00pm

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 either of the sessions 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!



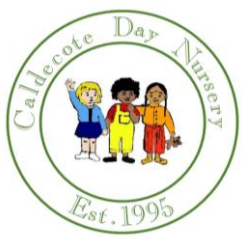
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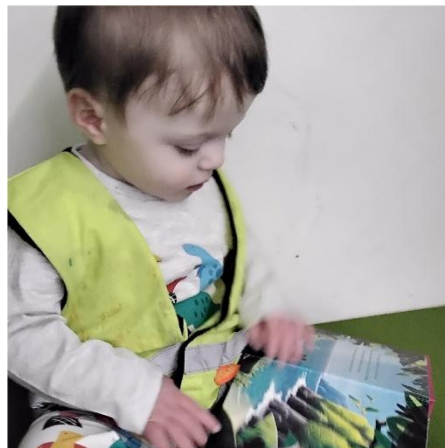
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Our February Learning...



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