



Caldecote Day Nursery



Newsletter September 2025

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

This month's Value: **Belonging**



Welcome to the Autumn Term 2025



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.

We have also said goodbye to Lauren P and Beckie in August, who have left us to spend more time with their families.

As some of you will remember, earlier this year, Mariana and I appointed a Manager to oversee the day to day running of the nursery. This was to allow Mariana to rest (!) and so I could focus more on my family. This appointment was unfortunately not successful and in the interim, the wonderful Alice, Lauren T and Poonam increased their responsibilities in the office and undertook additional responsibilities. We decided, however, that it was time to try and appoint a manager again and I can confirm that we have successfully promoted Lauren T to the position of Manager, from this month. She will be ably assisted by Alice and Poonam who will continue with their additional responsibilities during the week.

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:

We have had another successful year as our SEN Team continue to expand and support more children than ever with their learning and development. This was recognised and acknowledged by Warwickshire County Council with our Gold Wincks Award in July. We will continue to offer care and support to families with SEND as children transition to the next room in the coming months and to school in 2026.

The refurbishment of our kitchen has also allowed us to continue our commitment to food and nutrition, with delicious meals being served by The Nursery Catering Company. Some of the new flavours and textures are taking our children a little while to get used to, but we hope during the coming months they will enjoy all that is on offer. More details of this can be found in the newsletter.

We are so proud of our Time To Talk Champions, who continue to support children with their speech and language, ensuring that they are meeting their milestones each year. They are also preparing to expand the hugely successful lending library in September, offering a wider selection of books to share at home, with families, promoting the importance of stories, story-telling, language and communication. Watch this space for more details!



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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.

Family Focus: School Readiness

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. **This month our focus is: School Readiness**

What is a School Readiness?:

- School readiness for EYFS children is defined in terms of the aspects of the nursery / school environment that support a smooth transition for children (and their families) into primary school and advanced learning for all children.
- There are three main areas to consider: a child's readiness, the setting's readiness and a family's readiness.

Why is school readiness important?:

- Every child deserves the best start to school life. Increasingly, a number of children are beginning school without the skills they need. School readiness ensures a child is prepared for all areas of school life.

What are the main areas of school readiness that nursery will support with?:

- There are ten main areas that we will support with: managing toileting needs, supporting with sleep, helping with dressing and undressing, feeding skills, helping to keep a tidy environment and be respectful of resources, asking for help if needed, listening for short periods of time, being confident to try new things, learning to make friends and interact with others, confidently being away from parents and carers.

How might children and families feel about starting school?:

- There will be a mix of excitement and apprehension about starting school. The key is to tune in to your child's feelings, remain positive about the experience and talk to them about the transition, answering questions that might be troubling them.
- Engage with the school as much as possible and promote positive relationships with school staff.

What can families do to help with school readiness?:

- Work in partnership with nursery to support your child in being as ready as possible to take their next steps in their education. Share information and concerns as soon as possible, so we can help to address them and ultimately give your child the best start in life.

Please remember that all children learn in different ways and at a varying pace. This is why your key person is so important in helping your child to be school ready by the time they leave us. In mid-September we will share our school readiness plan with our 2026 school cohort so you can also support at home.



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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.



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

Meals at Caldecote...

We are delighted to announce that we have partnered with 'The Nursery Catering Company' who will be providing our meals moving forward.

During August, our children have enjoyed meals from the Spring / Summer menu and 1st September is the start of the Autumn / Winter Menu.

From **w/c 8th September**, both lunches and teas will be provided by them.

All the meals are fully compliant with the new EYFS nutrition guidance and The Nursery Catering Company have issued a statement about it, which you can read here:

<https://www.nurserycateringcompany.com/ourcommitmentonutrition>

We will continue to offer toast, low sugar cereal and fruit for breakfast, as well as fruit and vegetables, milk and water at snack times.



Click here to view their current menu:

<https://www.nurserycateringcompany.com/winter2026menus>

Full details of the new 2025 EYFS nutrition guidance can be found here:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/nutrition>



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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, pinecones. 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 Famly.



Autumn Term 2025 Dates for your diary...

Term Time Only children return on:

Monday 8th September when funding begins again.

Harvest donations collected – w/c 29.09.25 & 06.10.25

Grandparent's Day Fun! – 30.09.25 (10-11am) & 02.10.25 (2-3pm)

Nursery's 30th Birthday Celebrations – Wednesday 1st October; 9:30-11:30am

NSPCC Pantosaurus Week – w/c 13.10.25

Concept Photography – Tuesday 21st October; 9am-2:30pm

Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 24th October

Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 3rd November

World Nursery Rhyme Week – w/c 17.11.25

Stay & Play – 06.12.25; 10am-12pm

Christmas Jumper Day – 11.12.25

Christmas Parties – 11.12.25 (times to follow)

Pre-School Christmas Sing a long – 16.12.25 (10:30am) & 18.12.25 (2:30pm)

Our full term dates calendar is available on our website:

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

Information about events will also be uploaded to the calendar on Famly.

We are 30!

October 1st marks our 30th birthday and we are celebrating with a party. Children will be able to attend from **9:30am – 11:30am** in their party clothes and take part in games, dancing, eat party food and enjoy some fun entertainment. There will be a special party bag for each child too. Your child is welcome to attend, even if they do not usually do a session on a Wednesday morning. Just let us know if you will be coming!



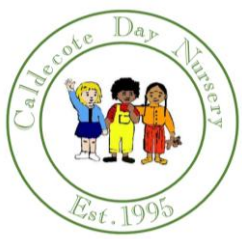
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Grandparents Day Family Fun!

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

Tuesday 30th September: 10:00am-11:00am

or

Thursday 2nd October: 2:00pm-3:00pm

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

Please contact your room team, via Family,
to book your space. Booking is essential!



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

Blackberry Energy Balls – makes 12



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 blackberries (blueberries or raspberries work too)
- 175g dates chopped.
(Soak in hot water for 20 minutes if dry.)
- 50g desiccated coconut plus extra for rolling
- 100g oats
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Method:

1. Before you start this recipe have a look at your dates. If they look at all dry, soak them for 20 minutes in a little boiling water. You won't need to do this if you're using medjool dates.
2. Blend the oats in a food processor until they're the consistency of flour. Add 100g berries, 50g desiccated coconut, 175g chopped dates and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract and blend until fully combined.
3. Roll the mixture into 12 balls and roll each ball in desiccated coconut until fully coated.
4. Chill in the fridge for 30 minutes then place in the fridge until you're ready to serve them.
5. Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to five days.
6. Can be frozen.



Please remember that if you are making these for young children, the balls should be cut into quarters before serving.

CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY



We are delighted to welcome **CONCEPT PHOTOGRAPHY** to nursery on **Tuesday 21st October** to take individual and sibling photographs **from 9am-2:30pm** with a festive theme! These photographs will then be available for you to purchase. These professional photographs always make lovely gifts for family and friends at Christmas. If your child does not usually attend nursery on this day but you would like them to have their photo taken, please contact the office to make an appointment. Siblings who do not attend nursery are also welcome.



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Our August Learning...



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