



# Caldecote Day Nursery



## Newsletter September 2024

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

This month's Value: **Belonging**



### Welcome to the Autumn Term 2024



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 our Ofsted inspection in June 2024, we continue to build on the successes of this as well as addressing the recommendations that were highlighted. This includes staff training in Sustained, Shared Thinking as well as an update of our curriculum milestones, as we feel that they need to be more challenging and aspirational for our current cohort.

We will continue to embed our work with Warwickshire's Time To Talk programme and continue to support children with their speech and language through the LEGRO programme that our champions have been trained in.

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!

Our staffing structure is as follows:

**Baby Room** – Lauren T, Emma, Rhian, Lauren P, Sarah, Sophie W, Lexi.

**Toddler Room** – Poonam, Sophie P, Megan, Miranda, Shakira, Sienna.

**Pre-School** – Rachael, Alice, Lilly, Kirsty, Reena, Leanne, Tiffany, Kayleigh, Ellie, Tibi, Hannah.

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

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

This will be subject to change as Kayleigh and Tiffany will be starting their maternity leave in the next couple of months.



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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 2025 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"> <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>

## 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**

## Autumn Term 2024 Dates for your diary...

**Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Harvest donations collected – w/c 30.09.24 & 07.10.24**

**Nursery's 29<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations – 01.10.24**

**Grandparents Family Fun Session – 02.10.24 (10-11am) & 03.10.24 (2-3pm)**

**NSPCC Pantosaurus Week – w/c 14.10.24**

**Concept Photography – 22.10.24**

**Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

**Term Time Only Children - Term begins Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**

**World Nursery Rhyme Week – w/c 11.11.24**

**Stay & Play – 30.11.24; 10am-12pm**

**Christmas Jumper Day – 13.12.24**

**Christmas Parties – 13.12.24 (times to follow)**

**Pre-School Christmas Sing a long – 17.12.24 (10am) & 19.12.24 (2pm)**

**Term Time Only Children - Term ends Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

**Our full term dates calendar is available on our website:**

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



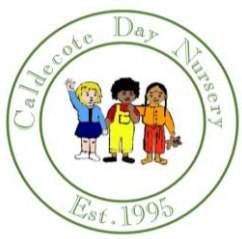
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This month's seasonal recipe to try at home...

### Blackberry & Apple Loaf



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

#### Ingredients:

- 250g self-raising flour
- 175g butter
- 175g light muscovado sugar
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 2 rounded tbsp demerara sugar
- 1 small eating apple, such as Cox's, quartered (not cored or peeled)
- 2 large eggs
- beaten
- 1 orange
- finely grated zest
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 225g blackberries



#### Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 180C / gas 4 / fan 160C. Butter and line the bottom of a 1.7 litre loaf tin.
2. In a large bowl, rub the flour, butter and muscovado sugar together with your fingers to make fine crumbs. Measure out 5 level tbsp of this mixture into a small bowl for the topping and mix in the cinnamon and demerara sugar. Set aside.
3. Coarsely grate the apple down to the core and mix in with the eggs and the zest. Stir the baking powder into the rubbed-in mixture in the large bowl, then quickly and lightly stir in the egg mixture until it drops lightly from the spoon. Don't overmix.
4. Gently fold in three quarters of the berries with a metal spoon, trying not to break them up. Spoon into the tin and level. Scatter the rest of the berries on top. Sprinkle over the topping and bake for 1 hour 15 minutes - 1 hour 20 minutes. Check after 50 minutes and cover loosely with foil if it is browning too much. When done the cake will feel firm, but test with a skewer.
5. Leave in the tin for 30 minutes before turning out, then cool on a wire rack. Peel off the paper before cutting. Will keep wrapped in foil or in a tin for up to 2 days.

#### 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>

Share your adventures through ParentZone! We look forward to seeing what you get up to...



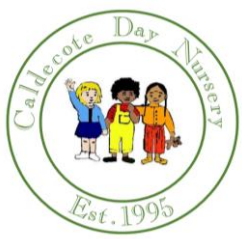
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### Grandparents Day Family Fun!

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

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October: 10:00am-11:00am

or

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 the office (01788 542337 or  
[info@caldecotedaynursery.co.uk](mailto:info@caldecotedaynursery.co.uk))  
to book your space. Booking is essential!



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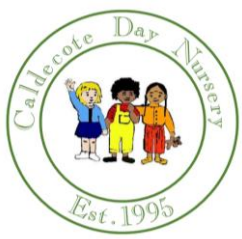


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## Our August Learning...



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