



Newsletter

Autumn Term: Week 10

15 November 2024

Dear Parents,

This week I have enjoyed seeing all of the children celebrate remembrance day with meaningful creative activities. The children have also been learning about friendships through songs and stories. Friendship Week in nursery is a delightful time to celebrate the joy of making and nurturing friendships. We help the children to bond, share, and learn the importance of kindness and cooperation.

At home, whether it's exploring a local park, going on a small road trip to spot the changing autumn colours, or a visit to the supermarket, weekend excursions provide wonderful opportunities for families to create lasting memories and strengthen family bonds. They help to complement the lessons of friendship learned during the week.

I wonder what adventures you will go on this weekend?
Please come and tell us on Monday!

Kind Regards,

Hannah Firmstone

Teacher and SENCo

Christmas Celebration

With the festive season fast approaching, we're delighted to share our plans for this year's Christmas celebrations!

Due to our upcoming move, we're hosting a Festive Stay and Play instead of our traditional Nativity play, allowing you to enjoy interactive holiday fun alongside your child.

Festive Stay and Play Details:

- **Dates and Sessions:** We'll be holding two morning and two afternoon sessions across two days on December 3rd and 4th.
- **Interactive Learning Stations:** Each room will feature a variety of engaging stations, including Christmas-themed sensory activities. Every child can join in on activities appropriate to their age and stage, creating a joyful experience for everyone.
- **Nativity Story Time:** Room leaders will share an age-appropriate Nativity story. Children are welcome to dress up in nativity-themed costumes provided for them and join in singing pre-learned songs.
- **Nativity Screening:** We'll also be playing a recording of the Nativity story on the board, allowing children to dress up as their favourite characters while they watch.
- **Carols Around the Tree:** At the end of each session, all rooms will come together to sing carols around the Christmas tree, with song sheets available for parents so you can join in with us.

Please look out for more information on booking your preferred session soon. We're looking forward to celebrating with you and making this holiday season memorable!



Important News



Oakengates Nursery School
The Place, Limes Walk,
Oakengates, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Executive Headteacher: Mrs Jenny Gascoigne

Tel: (01952) 387910
Email: oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk
h1001@taw.org.uk
www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm pleased to provide an update on our move to the new site and would like to share that everything is progressing smoothly and on schedule. We know this transition is exciting for everyone, and we appreciate your support as we prepare for the changes ahead.

This week, we received confirmation from the Telford and Wrekin Catering Team regarding the arrangements for our catering services. As planned, the catering kitchen from our current site is set to move to the new location in the week commencing 2 December. I would like to reassure you that our priority remains to provide your children with the high-quality meals they enjoy now, and we are taking every measure to make this transition seamless.

During this period, our current cook, will prepare and cook meals at Wrockwardine Wood Infant School, which is part of our federation. The food will then be transported to nursery with great care, following strict food safety standards and temperature controls.

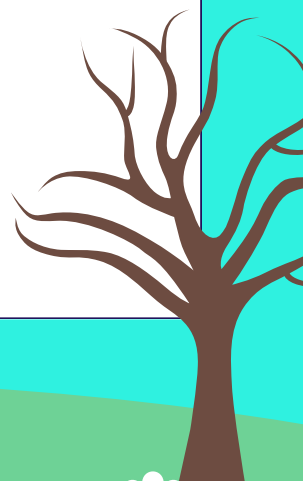
Meals will continue to be served in the same way, ensuring a consistent dining experience for the children. This will apply to both lunches and our high tea. Additionally, we would like to reassure you that this transition will not affect our Breakfast Club service, which will continue as usual.

We are committed to maintaining high quality and standards, and we will keep you updated throughout this process. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward together.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jenny Gascoigne.
BA (Hons) PGCE
Executive Headteacher





A message from Sabrina, our toddler room lead.

Hello! For those of you that don't know me, I'm Sabrina and I am the Toddler Room Lead.

With over twenty years of experience working in early years, I have a lot of knowledge and experience that to share with you.

I am very passionate and enthusiastic about supporting your child's learning and development as well as supporting parents/carers.

I always put the children at the heart of everything I do, creating a captivating, happy and safe environment.

The provision that the toddler room provides ensures all children access the areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage, with exciting activities to keep children engaged and help them thrive.

I am also the communication champion at our setting and was instrumental in our 'communication friendly status' award. I support and develop children's language by enriching their listening, understanding and communication skills, through careful planning.

I would like you to know we have an open door policy and that you can contact me with any questions or queries you may have.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page



For enquiries or to learn more about us, please contact us:

 www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk  oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk


01952 387910

Health Protection Hub

Winter Illness Advice

Teaching good hygiene habits

Parents/carers are urged to encourage good hygiene habits in their families, such as handwashing and using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes. Regularly washing hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitiser when convenient, is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of germs.

Knowing when to keep your child at home and when to send them to school

Children are encouraged to stay in school or nursery with symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or slight cough (if otherwise well and do not have a high temperature), but should stay at home if they feel too unwell to attend and/or if they have a fever. They should stay home until the fever has passed and they are well enough to attend. If they have diarrhoea and/or vomiting they should stay home for at least 48 hours after these symptoms clear up. Let the school know if your child is diagnosed with other illnesses such as scarlet fever and they can advise you how for long your child should stay off school.

Stopping the spread of stomach bugs

Stomach bugs spread easily in schools and nurseries. If you or your child have diarrhoea and/or vomiting, washing hands with soap and warm water and using bleach-based products to clean surfaces will help stop infections from spreading. Don't prepare food for others if you have such symptoms or for 48 hours after symptoms stop. If you are unwell, you should also avoid visiting people in hospitals and care homes to avoid passing on the infection to those more vulnerable. It's important not to return to school, nursery or work until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

Getting vaccinated

Infections such as flu, which see a seasonal increase in winter, are easily protected against with vaccination. All primary school age children, those aged 2 years (who have turned 2 years old before the 1 September 2024) all 3 year olds and secondary school children from Year 7 to Year 11 are eligible for the flu vaccine.

This will protect the children themselves, the school community and elderly relatives.

It's also important to ensure your children are up-to-date with their routine vaccinations, which protect against diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria and polio. If you are unsure of your child's vaccination status, you can check their "red book" or contact their GP.

NHS UK also provides easily accessible guidance for parents to help manage winter illness at home.

For enquiries or to learn more about us, please contact us:



www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk



oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk

01952 387910

Extraordinary School Closure

In the event of bad weather,
or unforeseen operational difficulties,
the Headteacher may take the difficult decision to
close the school for all or part of a day.

Every effort would be made to keep the school open or give parents
as much prior notice as possible.

If the nursery must close part way through the day,
for example because of a threat of freezing or dangerous conditions,
then a text message and or a telephone call would be made.

In the event of severe weather parents need to listen to the radio stations giving out
information on school closures:

The Telford and Wrekin school closure page and BBC Radio Shropshire being the
main source of information for our school.

Click on the link below:

[Telford and Wrekin School/Nursery Closures](#)

We will also post on our Facebook page:





KEY DATES



Date	Event
W/C 18th November	Stay and Play
25th - 29th November	World Nursery Rhyme Week
W/C 25th November	Stay and Play
Tuesday 3rd Wednesday 4th December	 Festive Stay And Play
Friday 13th December	'Farm on Wheels' Visit for all children
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 20th December	End of Term
Monday 23rd December	Nursery open for those children who attend full year (not term time).

Fantastic Fridays

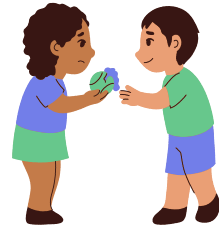
Every Friday we choose children that have gone the 'extra mile' to meet our nursery expectations:



We are kind to one another

We work hard together

We are honest with each other



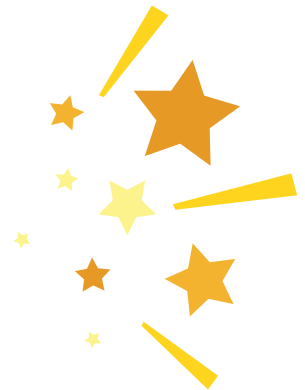
To celebrate their achievements the children have the opportunity to wear one of our special T-shirts for the day. This is what each T-shirt says:



It's Cool To Be Kind

I Worked Wonders

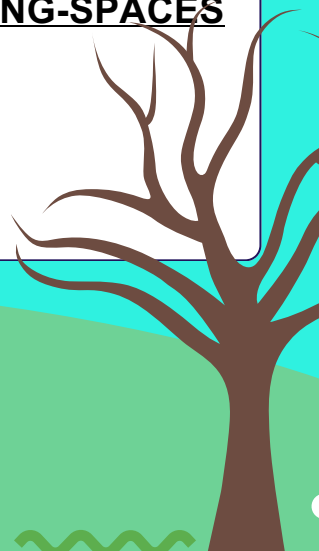
I Did the Right Thing



Your Child's Learning

Don't forget to find out about your child's learning this week from the room page on our website:

[HTTPS://WWW.OAKENGATESNURSERYSCHOOL.CO.UK/LEARNING-SPACES](https://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk/learning-spaces)





Check out the Better Health,
Healthier families website!



This useful website has food facts,
recipes, activities and information of
children's weight.

**[HTTPS://WWW.NHS.UK/HEALTHIER-
FAMILIES/](https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/)**

**Telford Public Health Nursing
Service**
Healthy you, Healthy Future

Telephone Number
0333 358 3328

Text 07520 619 053

School nurse 07520 619 051

Follow on twitter

@ShropPHNurse

Open 9am-4.30pm
excluding bank holidays

**Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin
Dental Advice Line**



Do you have an
urgent dental
problem or need
dental advice?

Are you looking
for an NHS
dentist for
routine care?

Monday to Friday
0800-2100

01743 237916

Shropshire Community Health **NHS**

**Apply online
NOW**



Starting school?

Closing date for applications:
15 January 2025

If your child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) the closing date is **31 October 2024**.

www.telford.gov.uk/admissions

- You **must** apply if your child was born between 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021.
- You **must** apply even if your child is attending a nursery or pre-school on a school site or you have a child already attending the school.
- You are advised to list four schools on your application form, including your catchment area/nearest school.
- Attending a nursery does **not** guarantee a school place.
- School places are allocated in line with oversubscription criteria.
- See website for more information www.telford.gov.uk/



**Telford and Wrekin
FAMILY HUBS**

Right help at the right time

Did you know that 'The Oak Family Hub' is located at The Wakes and offers free help and support to residents who are navigating their way through parenting?



The Wakes

COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TODDLERS & SCREEN TIME

The toddler years are full of excitement, exploration and energy. It's a critical time in children's development, when brain connections are rapidly forming. Youngsters often begin to discover devices around this age, as they learn to communicate with friends, play games and watch videos (Ofcom recently found, for example, that one in five 3-4-year-olds in the UK uses social media). These activities can make a child happy and relaxed but have a damaging impact if overused. Setting screen time limits for toddlers can be a challenge, so we've pulled together some suggestions for making sure your little one is interacting with the online world in a safe, healthy way.

ONLINE SAFETY CHECKLIST

✓ PARENTAL CONTROLS

Children need to be shielded from content that's not age appropriate. You can do this by adjusting parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and games they use.

✓ ONGOING SUPERVISION

Try to stay engaged and present in what your child is doing digitally. Make time to talk about what they enjoy and how they can stay safe online.

✓ OFFERING HELP

Teach your toddler to ask for help – and that they should always tell a trusted adult if they're unsure about anything to do with a device, or they see or hear something that makes them scared or upset.

✓ COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Emphasise that your child should check with you before they do anything online for the first time – such as watching a new show, playing a new game or exploring a new app.

✓ FACE TO FACE IS ACE

Support toddlers' development of language and other skills by prioritising games or apps that encourage face-to-face interaction – like learning to read or count with an adult.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MODEL IT

Your toddler is watching and learning from you whenever you pick up your phone. Even babies are aware of screens and the attention their parents give to them. By showing you know when to put your phone down and focus on something else, you're modelling an important behaviour for them.

CONTROL IT

Use tech to control tech. Most devices and individual apps have settings that allow you to restrict screen time. Decide on the right length of time and use the settings or a timer to block access. This is especially useful for very young children, who simply see it as the device 'turning off'.

ANNOUNCE IT

When a toddler's screen shuts off suddenly, it can lead to frustration and tears. Let your little one mentally prepare for the end of screen time by announcing they have five minutes left, two minutes left and so on. You could also set an egg-timer, alarm or buzzer to go off just before time's up.

DELAY IT

Try to avoid letting children start their day with screen time. Once they're online, it can be hard to get them back offline – and can set a negative tone for the rest of the day. Routine and structure are important for toddlers, so encourage them to enjoy some other activities before the screens go on.

TRADE IT

You could try offering rewards and alternatives in exchange for screen time – for example, having a device-free day to get a playdate with a friend at the weekend, or skipping screen time one evening in return for a trip to the ice cream parlour tomorrow.

EARN IT

Screen time can definitely be used as a reward. You could opt for the classic "no screen time until you've tidied up your toys" or you could get creative and award screen time in relation to successful tasks: eating all of their vegetables earns 10 minutes on their device, for example.

REMOVE IT

Keep family mealtimes, social gatherings, children's bedrooms and other important occasions and places screen free. Remember to turn off TVs that you aren't watching, because even background noise can distract from you spending quality face-to-face time with your young ones.

SWAP IT

Put together a bag of things that your children love playing with – and get them to help choose what goes in there (items like stickers, pens, small toys, Lego or teddy bears are ideal). Then encourage them to pick something to play with from "the special bag of fun" instead of staring at a screen.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa: a reporting system currently being used to combat bullying in schools and businesses around the world. FaceUp helps to give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up against unacceptable behaviour.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

<https://www.healthychildren.org/english/family-life/media/Pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx> | https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234808/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf
<https://blog.kingscollege.edu.au/10-strategies-for-managing-screen-time/> | https://www.babycenter.com/child/activities-and-play/screen-time-kids_10408590 | <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/screen-time-baby-toddler.html>



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