

# Oakengates Nursery School



## Newsletter

### Autumn Term: Week 12

Dear Parents,

What an exciting week it has been in nursery!

I'm excited to share that we have been busy rehearsing songs for our upcoming Festive Stay and Play event, which will take place next Tuesday and Wednesday. The children have been working hard, and we can't wait for you to join us. It's a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together and celebrate the season.

I would also like to remind you of our upcoming Farm On Wheels visit on the 13th December. This mobile farm typically includes a variety of animals such as turkeys, rats, chickens, sheep, and donkeys, each providing a distinct sensory experience. Children will be able to touch the soft wool of the sheep, feel the feathers of a turkey, and even pet the gentle donkey.

Wishing you all a happy and adventurous weekend, thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

*Hannah Firmstone*

Teacher and SENCo

# Festive Stay and Play



Be sure to reserve your spot for the Festive Stay and Play event happening on Tuesday, 3rd December, and Wednesday, 4th December.

You can choose between a morning or afternoon session on either day.

Spaces are limited for each session and filling up fast!

This delightful event offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the holiday season and learn about the nativity story with engaging crafts and small world opportunities.

Don't miss out on this chance to embrace the holiday cheer!





## A message from Shelley, our Day Care Manager.

For all those who don't know me, I'm Shelley.

I am the Ofsted registered person and Day Care Manager at Oakengates Nursery School and a proud member of the governing board for Oakengates Nursery and Wrockwardine Wood Infant School federation.

I've lived in Shropshire all my life and have been working within the Telford and Wrekin area for over 37 years within children's services. Over twenty-four of these years I have worked in Oakengates Nursery School and was involved in the move to our current nursery site many years ago.

I have sound knowledge of the local area and consequently know many of the children and their families which has enabled me to build positive relationships along the way, I still love my job as much as I did when I first started and believe its never too late to learn.

I continue to learn and have recently made a return to university in my spare time.

I'm a mother of two girls and have been a foster carer, as a working, single parent, for children with learning difficulties and healthcare needs.

I like to believe my life experience as well as my varied work roles gives me unique perspective as a working mother who is knowledgeable on the realities of parenting.

I pride myself on being positive and conscientious with a patient and enthusiastic approach to young children. I endeavour to always be committed towards helping individuals reach their full potential, by embracing their unique circumstances. One of my biggest beliefs is that adults should have a strong pedagogical knowledge to nurture children's strengths.

Please say 'hello' when you see me, I'm always here to help and support and come with a smile to share.

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

 [www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk](http://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk)  [oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk](mailto: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.

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[www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk](http://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk)



[oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk](mailto: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:



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page





## KEY DATES



| Date                                     | Event   |
|--|---|
| Tuesday 3rd<br>Wednesday 4th<br>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)                                    |
| Monday 6th January                       | PD Day<br>Nursery closed to all children  |
| Tuesday 7th January                      | The new nursery site grand opening  |

## Funding

We would like to remind you about the renewal of your nursery funded sessions.

In order to secure your 15-hour or 30-hour funding for January 2025, it is essential that you renew your code before the deadline of 31st December 2024.

Ensuring that your code is valid by this date will guarantee uninterrupted access to the funded hours your child is entitled to.

Please take the necessary steps to renew your code promptly to avoid any disruptions.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the renewal process, please contact Janice, our administrator.

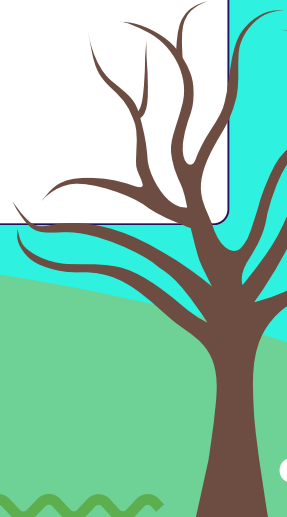
Thank you!



## 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](http://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/](http://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://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234808/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf)  
<https://blog.kingscolledge.edu.au/10-strategies-for-managing-screen-time/> | [https://www.babycenter.com/child/activities-and-play/screen-time-kids\\_10408590](https://www.babycenter.com/child/activities-and-play/screen-time-kids_10408590) | <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/screen-time-baby-toddler.html>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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