

Oakengates Nursery School



Newsletter

Autumn Term: Week 14

Dear Parents,

I hope this message finds you well. This Friday the Farm on Wheels visit was a wonderful experience for the children. They absolutely loved meeting and interacting with the animals, including a friendly donkey, an inquisitive rat, fluffy sheep, and a colourful turkey. It was a delightful day that the children thoroughly enjoyed.

Looking forward to the full week before Christmas, I would like to remind you of Christmas Jumper Day next Wednesday. Please encourage your child to wear their most festive Christmas jumper to nursery, it will be a fun day when children will also be having Christmas dinner.

Wishing you all a fabulous weekend, thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Hannah Firmstone

Teacher and SENCo

Relocation Delay



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

6 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to provide an important update regarding the opening of our new nursery, originally scheduled for 7 January.

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions and unforeseen complications with the national grid, there will be a delay in opening the new nursery. While we are still awaiting confirmation of a revised date, it is now likely that the move will take place at the end of January.

I understand that this may be disappointing news, and I want to reassure you that we are working closely with the local authority to finalise plans. Our priority is to ensure that the transition is well organised and minimises disruption to children and families.

In light of this delay, I am pleased to confirm that we will now reopening our holiday club provision for our full year children at our current site on the following dates:

- 23 December
- 2 January
- 3 January
- 6 January

Please let us know as soon as possible if you will require childcare on these days by contacting the admin office on 01952 387910.

I want to take this opportunity to reassure you of our continued commitment to providing the highest standards of education and childcare, both during this transition period and beyond. We will keep you fully informed as plans are finalised and will share updates promptly.

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jenny Gascoigne.
Executive Headteacher.



A message from Pauline, our after school club supervisor.

Hello, my name is Pauline, and I am thrilled to be your after school club supervisor, whilst also working in the toddler room.

I am available during the afternoon and evenings, dedicating my time to ensuring that your child engages in fun, creative, and physical activities at after school club.

I enjoy knitting and have created some pieces for nursery based around the themes we have been learning about.


I love all animals and as pets for my daughter we have had rabbits, mice and a hamster. We also have fish and a very crazy cat, who also loves helping me knit.

With 27 years of experience in Early Years education, I have worked with babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers, providing me with a wealth of knowledge and expertise.

My passion for this profession remains as strong as it was when I first began my career, as I cherish the unique challenges and rewarding moments each day brings. I look forward to supporting your child's growth and development in our nurturing and stimulating environment.

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

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


 01952 387910


Festive Stay and Play




Last week we hosted a delightful 'Festive Stay and Play' event, where families were invited to join us for an hour filled with joy and creativity. The event provided an excellent opportunity for parents to engage with their children in a playful, festive setting, fostering a sense of community and connection. Activities included arts and crafts, Christingles, and music, all designed to celebrate the holiday spirit and encourage learning through play. It was heartwarming to see parents and children alike enjoying quality time together, creating memories and building stronger bonds. We are grateful to all the families who participated and helped make the event a resounding success.

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 01952 387910

Christmas Party

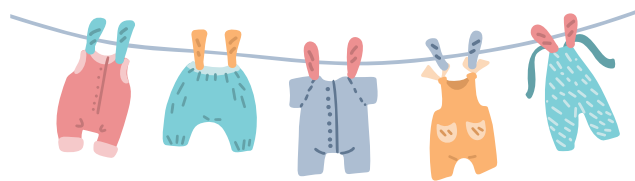
On Friday, the 20th December we will be having a Christmas party, designed especially for the children!

To ensure there's plenty of delicious party food for everyone, we're kindly asking for a donation of £1 per child. This small contribution will help us provide a healthy party snack for the children to enjoy, along side party games and dancing.

Bring your holiday spirit and let's make this a memorable day filled with fun, games, and festive cheer!

Clothes Donations

If anybody has any spare clothes they could donate to nursery, the baby room would appreciate 18-24 month tops and bottoms please!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page



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

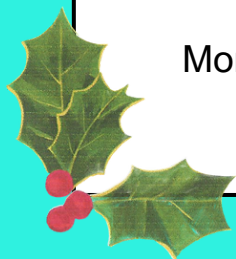




KEY DATES



Date	Event
Wednesday 18th December	 Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas dinner
Friday 20th December	End of Term 
Monday 23rd December	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time)
Thursday 2nd January	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time)
Friday 3rd January	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time)
Monday 6th January	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time)



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.

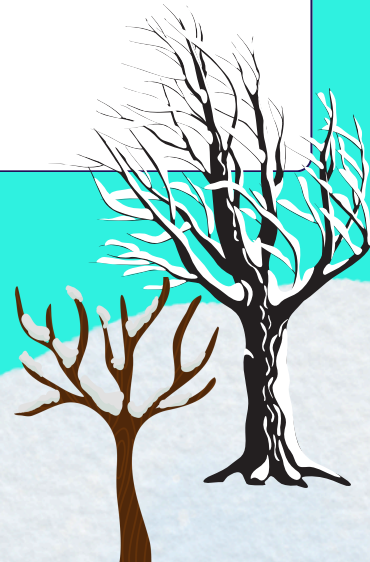
Thank you!



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

- 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



EARLY HELP





Telford & Wrekin
Cooperative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



learn telford
adult learning starts here



FREE

Maths

Functional skills

Advanced Level



Time: 12 - 2:45pm

Date: Monday
24th Feb 2025 - 14th Jul 2025

Venue: Donnington Community Hub,
TF2 7RB



Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you,
there are other venues/days available. For more
information visit our website: www.learntelford.ac.uk



To register please text/call
07866 619328





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FREE

Maths

Functional skills

Advanced Level



Time: 9:15am -12pm
or
12:30 - 2:45pm

Date: Wednesday
26th Feb 2025 - 16th Jul 2025

Venue: The Wakes, Oakengates,
TF2 6EP



Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you,
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FREE

English

Functional skills

Advanced Level



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FREE

English

Functional skills

Advanced Level



► **Date:** Tuesday
25th Feb 2025 - 15th Jul 2025
Time: 9:15 - 11am

► **Date:** Thursday
27th Feb 2025 - 17th Jul 2025
Time: 12 - 2:45pm

Venue: The Wakes, Oakengates, TF2 6EP



Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you,
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For more information &
to register please text/call
078666 19328 or visit our



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.kingscolledge.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>