



# Newsletter

23 February 2024

## Oakengates Nursery School

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

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

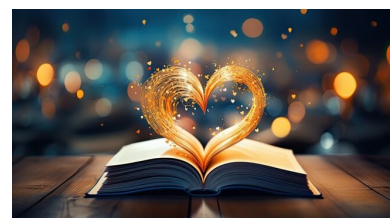
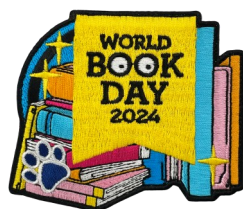
01952 387910

### World Book Day Thursday 7 March 2024

Oakengates Nursery School will be taking part in world book day on Thursday 7 March.

This event is an annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading.

We are inviting children and staff to come to nursery on this special day as their favourite story book character.



### Diary Dates

1 <sup>st</sup> March	St David's Day
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Incredible eggs delivery
7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Mothering Sunday
11 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science week Theme: Time
15 <sup>th</sup> March	Comic Relief
17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick's Day
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Stay and Play – details to follow
25 <sup>th</sup> March to 5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays

### Spring Term 2024

Tuesday 9th January to Friday 22nd March

**Half term—Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February**

**Easter Holiday—Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April**  
PD day Monday 8th April

### Summer Term 2024

Tuesday 9th April to Friday 19th July

**Half term—Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May**  
PD day Monday 3rd June

Please go to our website to access all term dates for the academic year 2023-2024

<https://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk/media/46119/term-dates-2023-2024.pdf>

**Nursery closure to all children**

Friday 29th March & Monday 1st April  
Monday 6th May & Monday 27th May.

**Scroll down to page 5 to find out top tips on how to keep under 5s safe online.**



**Are you eligible for 30 hours funding? Go to:**  
<https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>

**Do you already have a preschool child with 30 hours funding?**

**Don't forget you have to confirm your details are up to date every 3 months.**

**This term, our theme in nursery is called:**

# Let's Pretend



## Toddler Room

This week in the toddler room we will be sharing the story "The Odd Egg" and learning all about the life cycle of the duck.

The children will be moving around playing the duck game, making movements to represent each life stage, such as crouching down for "egg" stretching up for "hatching" etc.

In our duckling pop up play we will be counting out the pipe cleaner worms and feeding them to the ducklings.

On the playdough table we will be creating ponds for the ducks, using blue playdough, flowers, and other loose parts.

For music and movement, we will be moving around to the Swan Lake "Dance of the Cygnets" performance using scarfs.

Our rhyme of the week is  
*"There's a worm at the bottom of my garden".*

## Preschool Room

This week in pre-school we will continue with the theme of 'Let's Pretend to be Farmers'.

In the playdough we will be exploring making different marks with tools and in the construction area we will be sorting animals and counting them.

In the maths area we will be buying and selling fruit and vegetables on the market stall and drawing maps to help get to the farm in the writing area.

Our rhymes of the week are  
*'One potato, two potato'* and  
*'Cows in the kitchen'.*



## **BABY ROOM**

This week in the Baby room our theme is 'let's pretend to be farmers.' There will be farm play and sensory farm play so your baby can explore the animals on the farm and make animal noises.

Next week the duckling eggs will arrive, the babies will visit the incubator to observe and listen. *Will they hear the chirping sounds coming from inside the eggs and see the ducks hatch ?*

Can your baby learn the sound the duck makes?

Our messy play this week we will be creating images sticking different materials onto sticky surfaces .  
Sheep – White, Cow – Black, Pig – Pink.

Outside we will be using the ramps for the cars and tractors to go up and down. Whilst singing 'driving along on my big green tractor' and learning whole body movements by exploring marks on the easel.

Our nursery rhyme of the week is 5 little ducks and Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken.

Please can parents send a photo to nursery via parent zone of a new skill your baby has learned at home to go on the 'I am Proud board.'

Your child's key person will print these out so we can celebrate these new talents at nursery.

## **Nursery Rhymes of the week**

**Click on the image to access the song.**



***'There's a worm at the bottom of the garden.'***

# Other Useful Information

Do you know about the Telford and Wrekin Family Hubs?

Family hubs are a place virtually or in your own community that provide signposting and support for parents and children.



Right help at the right time

Click on the link to access the website and find out more

[https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20087/healthy\\_telford/6640/best\\_start\\_for\\_life\\_-\\_family\\_hubs](https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20087/healthy_telford/6640/best_start_for_life_-_family_hubs)



ERIC – the children's bowel and bladder charity are hosting online parent/carer workshops over the next month via webinars.

Click [here](#) or on the image below to access the website to signup



**Some topics include:**

- ♦ How to tackle potty and toilet avoidance
- ♦ How to help your child relax for toilet sits
- ♦ How to go about toilet training when your child has additional needs
- ♦ How to manage your child's

## 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**

## Telford Public Health Nursing Service



**Healthy you, Healthy Future**

**Telephone Number 0333 358 3328**

**Text 07520 619 053**

**School nurse 07520 619 051**

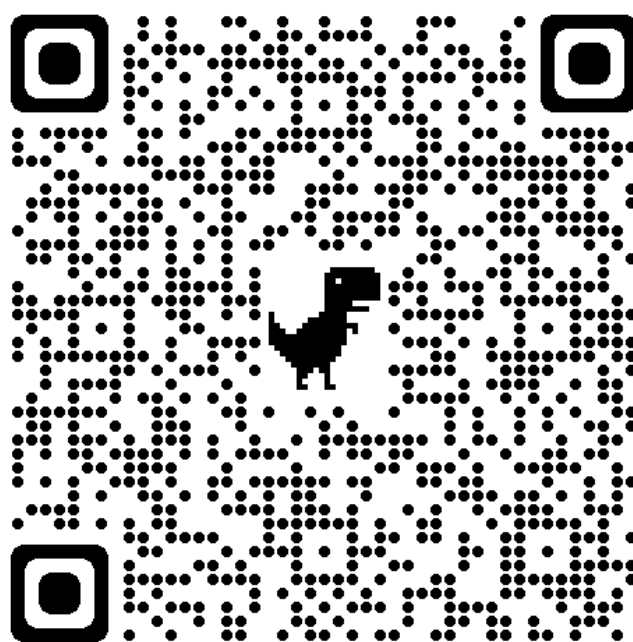
**Follow on twitter**

**@ShropPHNurse Open 9am-4.30pm**  
excluding bank holidays

# Do you know what to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage?



Use the QR code below to access a guide for parents





# ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

### 1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:  
\*\*\*\*\*

### 6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

### 2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

### 7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

### 3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.

### 8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that *their* rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

### 4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're telling them.

### 9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

### 5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

### 10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement; dance and sing along to songs your child loves; and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

### Meet Our Expert

Konstantina Moustaka is a professional development and EYFS coordinator at an 'outstanding' nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 16 years.



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: [https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/234809/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234809/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf)



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



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