



# Newsletter

01 March 2024

## Oakengates Nursery School

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

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

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### 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.



### Comic Relief—Red Nose Day

Comic Relief supports incredible projects and organisations that are making a difference for people across the UK and around the world.

On **Friday 15 March** the children are invited to wear red for a small donation towards this worthwhile cause.



### Diary Dates

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

Next week in the toddler room we will be celebrating our love of reading for world book day. We will be sharing our favourite stories throughout the sessions this week such as *"The Gruffalo and The Very Hungry Caterpillar"*.

On the art studio we will be using paint to create own caterpillars moving across the paper. We will be using lots of vocabulary from the story as we paint "but he was still Hungry..."

In the construction area we will be building homes for the animals from the Gruffalo story and retelling the story using props.

In the home corner we will be setting the table ready for when *"The Tiger comes for tea"* we will have our own fun masks to wear. I wonder who's going to be the Tiger today?

On the playdough table we will also be celebrating Mother's Day and will be making Mother's Day treats using pink scented playdough.

Our nursery rhyme of the week is *"Peter Rabbit"*.

## Preschool Room

Next week in the pre-school room we will be welcoming some very special guests – duck eggs!

We are very excited that we will be able to watch the eggs hatch and learn through first hand experiences as we observe changes, and watch the ducklings grow.

It is also World Book Day so we will be celebrating by reading lots of stories about the farm, and farm animals.

On the writing table we will be drawing eggs and ducks and in the art area we will be looking closely at daffodils and using pastels and watercolours to create Mothers day cards.

Our rhyme of the week is:  
*Five Little Ducks went swimming one day.*



## BABY ROOM

This week in the Baby room our theme continues to be is let's pretend to be farmers. Our focus story will be *'1,2,3 Farm'*.

We will be learning about the little ducklings and being on the farm. This week, this week the incredible eggs will arrive, we might hear the eggs cheeping and see them hatching.

In the messy play this week we will be in the mud kitchen and playing with the ducks in different water, blue, shiny and bubbly.

Outside we will be using the cars and tractors in paint and watching the marks being made on large pieces of paper.

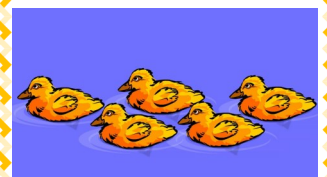
Our nursery rhyme of the week *'Ducks in the pond say quack, quack, quack and ducklings in the pond say cheep, cheep, cheep.'*



## **Nursery Rhymes of the week**

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

**5 little ducks went  
swimming one  
day.**



# 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**

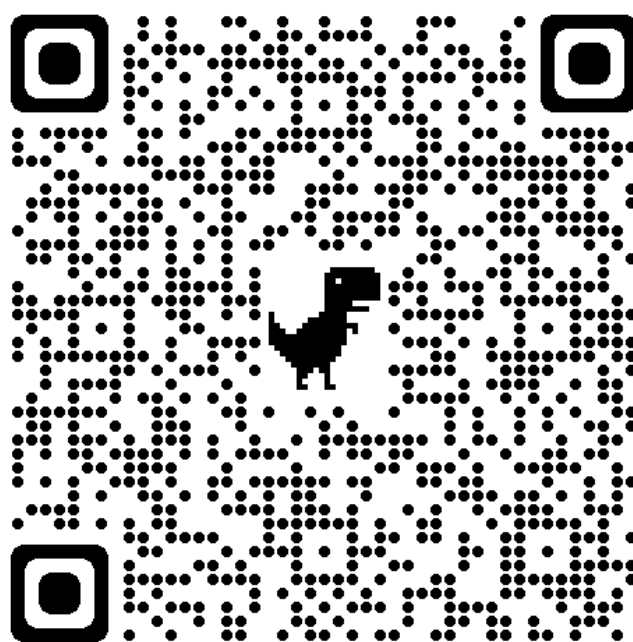
**Follow on twitter**

**@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)



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