



# Newsletter

08 March 2024

## Oakengates Nursery School

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

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### Stay and Play

Week Commencing 18th March 2024

Letters are coming home this week

Don't forget to return your booking slip.



### 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.

# RED NOSE DAY

### Diary Dates

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 welcoming our new theme "*lets pretend to be gardeners*".

We will be learning about how to plant and take care of our own beans which we will be taking home. Our pop-up play is the garden centre, where we will be taking on different roles in our play.

*I wonder who wants to be the customer?  
I wonder what you could buy?*

On the playdough table we will be making miniature gardens using brown playdough and flowers.

This week we are also celebrating science week where we will be investigating, floating and sinking in the water tray.

We will also be experimenting with ice and pallet block paints.

For comic relief we will be exploring the colour red and decorating red nose templates.

## Preschool Room

This week in pre-school we will starting a new topic to celebrate British science week - Let's be scientists. Our story of the week is Jack and the Beanstalk.

We will be exploring the theme of time. In the snack area we will be investigating what happens when an apple is cut up and left - will it change colour?

Outside we will be investigating what happens to ice when you add salt to it.

In the art area we will be making collages of spring flowers and making sand timers.

Our rhyme of the week is '*I'm a little bean*'.



## BABY ROOM

This week in the Baby room our theme is let's pretend to be gardeners

We will be learning about being gardeners by exploring natural objects in soil and sand.

We will be growing our own beans, and replanting them outside in the garden, caring for them by watering them using the watering cans and observing how they grow over several weeks. This activity will be continued into the Easter holidays.

We will be learning how to stack bricks on top of one another to form a beanstalk and looking at images of beanstalks in the environment.

During messy play we will experience colour, texture and movement by exploring paint on paper, the older babies will learn to use up and down movements with their fingers and hands to create beanstalks. We will also model how to roll the green playdough to make beanstalks.

Our nursery rhyme of the week we will be continuing to sing '*chick, chick, chick, chicken*' to link to the ducklings that will be at the nursery for all children to visit.



## Nursery Rhymes of the week

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



**'Chick, chick, chick, chick, chicken' with Mr Tumble.**

# 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

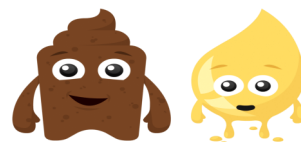
Click on the link to access the website and find out more

[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**

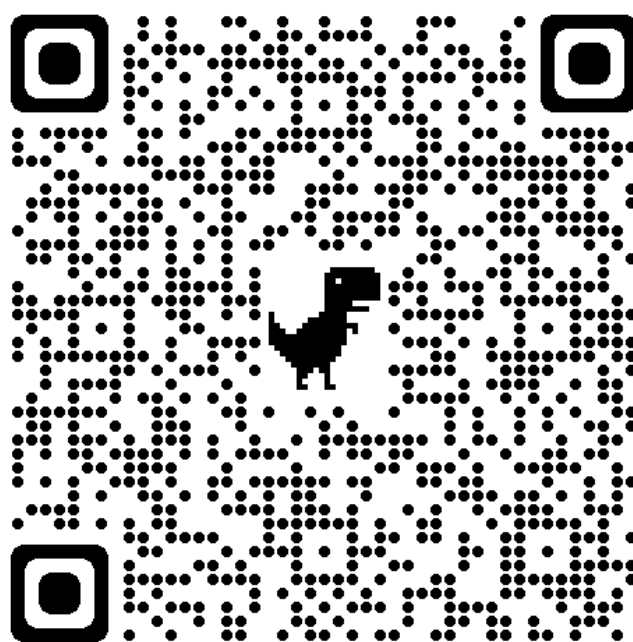
**Follow on twitter**

**@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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