



New Bridge Nursery School

Newsletter

Term 1



We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are excited to begin the new academic year together.

Staffing Updates

Many of you will already be aware that we said goodbye to Joanne Budge in her role as Executive Head. While Jo is moving on from this position. She will however continue as Head of the Thames Valley Stronger Practice Hub and will still be working closely with us. Jo will also be based at our sister nursery, Blagdon Nursery School, and we look forward to maintaining our strong relationship with her.

We are delighted to welcome Benedict O'Shea as our new Executive Head. Some of you will have already had the opportunity to meet Benedict, and we are excited about the experience, leadership and enthusiasm he brings to our school community. We look forward to sharing more about Benedict and his vision for the future in the coming months.

Farewell to Kat

We will also be saying farewell to Kat, on the 9th October. She is moving on to pursue a new opportunity in her career. We would like to thank Kat for the dedication, care and commitment she has shown during her time with us. She has made a wonderful contribution to the nursery, particularly within the Snowflake Class, and we wish her every success and happiness in the future.

Congratulations, Gemma! (Rainbow Team)

We are very pleased to share that Gemma has successfully completed her Initial Teacher Training and is now working as an Early Career Teacher in Rainbow Class. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of her hard work and dedication. We know she will continue to make a positive impact on the children's learning and development. Please join us in congratulating Gemma on this exciting milestone.

Gemma's Professional Development (Sunshine Team)

We are delighted that Gemma, from our Sunshine Team, has started studying for her Level 3 qualification in Childcare and Education. Gemma is a valued member of the team, and we are proud to support her as she develops her skills and knowledge. We know she will work hard and do exceptionally well, and we look forward to celebrating her achievements along the way.

Safeguarding Reminders

To help us keep all children safe, please ensure that mobile phones are put away before entering the nursery gates. We would also appreciate your support in making sure that gates are closed securely behind you as you enter and leave the site.

At drop-off and collection times, please keep all children with you under close supervision, including younger or older siblings who may not attend the nursery. The car park and outdoor areas can be busy, particularly at these times, and are not safe places for children to play or run ahead. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for everyone.

Celebrations

Please remember to let us know of any festivals or other celebrations you have in your home, so that we can share these with the children.

Birthdays

We celebrate the children's birthdays in nursery. Please DO NOT send in a cake or sweets but we would welcome a fruit selection for the children to share.

Absences and Lateness



Please ensure that you bring your child to nursery on time each day. On the rare occasion you may be late, please call us to let us know. It is important that the children arrive on time as it impacts the whole group if the team needs to be interrupted to welcome a late child. With this in mind we will be leaving the doors open until 9.10am and 12.55pm. If you are late unfortunately you will need to bring your child to reception and you will need to wait with them until group time finishes (this may take up to 20 minutes).

School times are as follows:

9am – 12pm for mornings, 9am - 3.45pm for a full day and 12.45 – 3.45pm for afternoon sessions.

If Your Child Is Unwell or Will be Absent

If your child is unwell or not coming to nursery for any reason, please call the office or leave a message on the answer phone. We have a duty of care to follow up any absences on the first day so please do make this call.

Donations

We are very appreciative of your weekly fruit and monetary donations. £2 per week or £20 per term towards toys, cooking ingredients and art materials for the children.



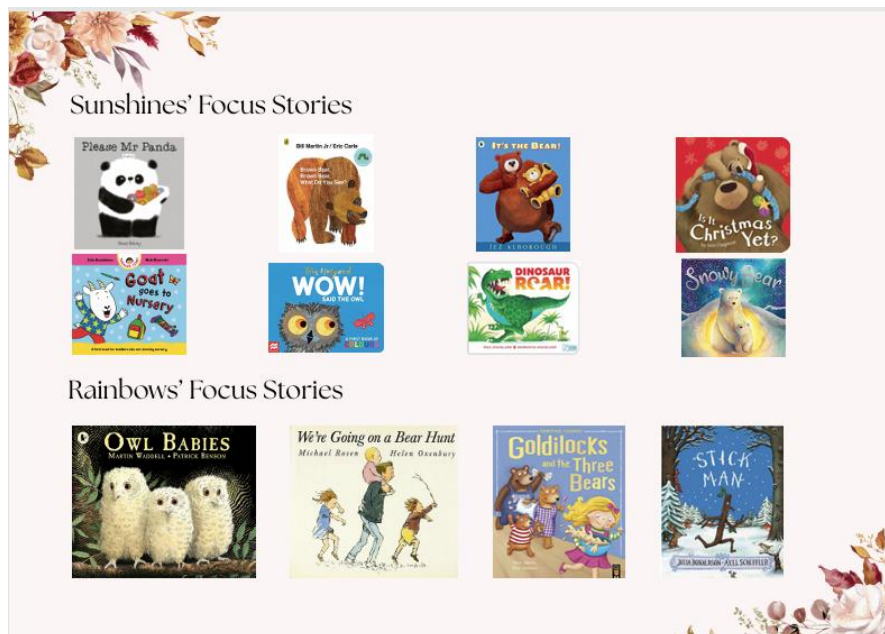
The Big Dig!

Last year, thanks to a National Lottery Community Grant, we began developing our outdoor area and plans for our new Forest School. We would also like to say a huge thank you to a group of parents who organised their own fundraising and surprised us with the generous gift of a beautiful cherry tree. We are looking forward to planting it during our Big Dig event on 17th October.

As you will have seen on the poster, there are lots of jobs planned for the day, including painting and staining fences, building sheds, clearing plants and ivy, planting trees and laying Astro turf. We would love as many volunteers as possible to join us. Children are welcome to come along if needed. However, as the site will be an active work area, with tools, materials and gates open at times for deliveries and waste removal, parents and carers will be fully responsible for supervising their children throughout the event. Thank you for your support. Together, we can create an even better environment for our children to thrive and achieve.



The Focus Stories for this term



In Sunshine class the books are chosen based on the children in the group at the time.
You will be updated through the weekly curriculum catch up.

What to bring to nursery?

– Please ensure all clothes and belongings are clearly **NAMED** in a rucksack or cloth bag.

NO CARRIER BAGS PLEASE

- Water bottle – this will go home each day (please only fill with water)
- Wellington boots – to leave at nursery
- Waterproof jacket and trousers (or all in one) – to leave at nursery
- Sun hat – when needed
- Nappies and wipes (if applicable)
- Spare clothes - including underwear and socks

Please **DO NOT** put toys, food, medication, creams or any other items not listed above in your child's bag.

Wet bags are an easy way to store wet/dirty clothes. They are a reusable, waterproof and leak resistant bag that zips shut to help keep odours (and liquids) from escaping.

Focus Children and Tapestry Observations

Each short term your child will have an update on Tapestry. You will be asked to complete a simple questionnaire and then return this back to the team member. At the end of each focus week, you will have a **10 minute** phone meeting to discuss the week and a summary observation uploaded to Tapestry. Please comment or click like to say you have seen this. We ask that you then add your own observation showing something you have done at home following the suggested next steps for home learning. By carrying out observations this way, it means that the team spend more time with the children and our observations are more focused on the children's learning.

Each child in Rainbow and Sunshine will have a short settling in summary approximately 2 weeks after joining us with a follow up telephone call. The focus weeks will begin the following short term. Children in Snowflake class will have individualised settling in periods.

Lunch Boxes (Children attending 30 hours)

Please Remember we are a **NUT AWARE** School. Please note: We have a child and staff member with serious allergies to nuts.

We provide water for the children to have with their lunch. Please do not send in any other drinks including smoothies. We will send home any food that your child chooses not to eat or if there was too much for them to eat in 30 minutes. (It is not recommended that children sit for longer than this to eat a meal). We ask that you follow the healthy eating suggestions below and only send food that can be eaten cold as we are not able to reheat food. **Please ensure you cut grapes, sausages etc. length ways.** Thank you



Healthy Packed Lunches for Children Under 5

Good food fuels little bodies, supports learning, helps with concentration and builds healthy habits for life.



Fruit & Vegetables

Add a rainbow of colour!



Try: apple slices, berries, grapes, cherry tomatoes, cucumber, carrot sticks, pepper strips, celery, melon.

Whole Grains

Provide lasting energy.



Try: wholemeal bread, pitta pockets, wraps, oatcakes, wholegrain crackers, plain rice, pasta or quinoa.

Protein Foods

Help with growth and keep them fuller for longer.



Try: boiled eggs, chicken, turkey, cheese, hummus, beans, lentils, chickpeas, tofu, plain yoghurt (for children with no allergies).

Dairy & Alternatives

Builds strong bones and teeth.



Try: plain or Greek yoghurt, cheese cubes, fromage fraise or calcium-fortified plant-based alternatives (e.g. oat or soy).

Healthy Fats

Supports brain development.



Try: avocado, seeds, plain hummus, sunflower or pumpkin seeds, or a small amount of olive oil.

Keep It Fun!

Small changes can make a big difference to how much they eat.



Try: using fun shapes, colourful boxes or little pots, and letting your child help choose their favourite foods.

Hydration

Water keeps them healthy, focused and energised.



Try: a water bottle – no juice or sugary drinks please.

Extra Tips for Success



Don't forget a water bottle – hydration is important!



Choose low sugar options – save cakes, sweets and sugary drinks for treats.



Use an insulated lunch box and ice pack (especially for warmer days).



Keep it fresh and safe – pack food that stays well and is easy for little hands to manage.



Healthy lunches = happy, healthy, growing children!



Jean - Head of School



Please find the diary dates for this term overleaf. These may be subject to change.

Day	Date	What is happening
Week Beg:	21 st Sept	Collections for Harvest Festival throughout the week Rainbows
Friday	25 th Sept	Mid-Autumn Festival (moon festival)
Whole	Oct	Black History Month
Wednesday	7 th Oct	Parent workshop –Toilet Training with Claire at Caversham Nursery
Friday	9 th Oct	Rainbows Harvest Festival Singing – collections arranged at nursery in the week before 11.30am and 2.30pm
Saturday	10 th Oct	World Mental Health Day (9 th in Nursery)
Saturday	17 th Oct	The Big Dig – from 10am some parents arriving early to plant tree.
Week Beg:	19 th Oct	Sponsored – Scavenger hunt – forms to go out
Wednesday	21 st Oct	Celebrate Durga Puja – Hindu festival
Thursday	22 nd Oct	Celebration of Republic Day of Türkiye
Saturday	17 th -21 st Oct	Durga Puja – Hindu Festival
Friday	23 rd Oct	Inset Day - Nursery Closed to all children for Inset
Nursery Closed 26th October –30th October for HALF TERM		
Thursday	29 th Oct	Republic Day of Türkiye
Monday	2nd Nov	Nursery re opens for Term 2
Thursday	5 th Nov	Guy Fawkes
Friday	6 th Nov	Celebration of Diwali – Hindu, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhist
Saturday	7 th Nov	Open morning for registrations 9am – 11am (parents 9.30 -10.30)
Sunday	8 th Nov	Diwali – Hindu, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhist (celebrating on 6 th)
Wednesday	11 th Nov	Remembrance Day – we will be honouring this at 11am with the children.
Wednesday	11 th Nov	Mark making and early writing parent workshop 11.30pm at New Bridge & (2.30pm online- NB and Cav parents)
Friday	13 th Nov	Children in Need
Week Beg:	16 th Nov	School application Information will be sent out this week TBC
Tuesday	24 th Nov	School application information and support session TBC
Thursday	26 th Nov	USA – Thanksgiving
Monday	30 th Nov	St. Andrew's Day – Patron Saint of Scotland
Tuesday	1 st Dec	Fur and feathers visiting am TBC
Wednesday	2 nd Dec	Fur and feathers visiting pm TBC
Friday	4 th Dec	Visit to St John's Church TBC
Wednesday	9 th Dec	Supporting Positive Behaviour Workshop
Thursday	10 th Dec	Save the Children - Christmas Jumper day
Friday	11 th Dec	Christmas stay and play with Rainbows and Sunshine Families 11.30am families and 2.30 for 30 hours and pm families
Thursday	17 th Dec	Snowflake Christmas session
Thursday	17 th Dec	Last usual sessions for all children
Friday	18 th Dec	Christmas Parties for Rainbow and Sunshine children 10.30am-12.30pm
Monday	21 st Dec	Christmas Break – CLOSED
CHRISTMAS BREAK Monday 21st Dec – Friday 1st January		
Monday	4 th Jan	Inset Day – CLOSED to all children -
Tuesday	5 th Jan	Home visits– CLOSED to all children