



# Oakengates Nursery School

## Newsletter



### Autumn Term: Week 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope your child has settled in well and is enjoying the start of the new nursery year.

It's been lovely to see so many happy faces and hear the buzz of learning and play across the setting.

This week, we're continuing to build routines, strengthen friendships, and explore exciting new topics. Thank you for your support with drop-offs, communication, and helping your child feel confident and ready for each day.

Please keep an eye on upcoming dates and reminders in this newsletter, including our Harvest food bank collection, and don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

*Hannah Firmstone*

Early Years Lead & SENCo





# FLU VACCINE

## Why get the flu vaccine?

Flu is a common infection in babies and children. Children under the age of 5 have one of the highest hospital admission rates for flu compared to other age groups. Flu can be a very unpleasant illness in children, causing fever, extreme tiredness, aching muscles and joints, stuffy nose, dry cough and sore throat. Children usually begin to feel better within about a week. Complications of flu include acute bronchitis, painful ear infections and pneumonia. Some children may need to go to hospital for treatment, including intensive care.

Annual vaccination of children helps provide protection to each child and reduces the spread of flu to their families and the wider community, protecting others who are at increased risk of becoming seriously ill from flu. The flu vaccine also promotes a healthy working environment in nurseries and childcare settings by reducing the risk of flu being spread to others including staff.

### **Five reasons for getting your child vaccinated against flu:**

1. Protect your child. The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
2. Protect you, your family and friends. Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
3. No injection needed. The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
4. It's better than having flu. The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
5. Avoid costs. If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Side effects of the nasal vaccine may commonly include a runny or blocked nose, headache, tiredness and some loss of appetite. Serious side effects are uncommon.

### **When, where, how?**

The flu vaccine will be offered for free this autumn/winter to all children aged 2 or 3 years old on 31 August 2025.

It will be available from GPs from 1st September and from community pharmacies from 1st October.

It's a nasal spray which is painless and easy to have.

We'd therefore encourage you to get your child vaccinated when the offer opens in September.

More information is available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/>

If you'd like to discuss this further, please speak to your GP or email

HealthProtectionHub@telford.gov.uk





## TALK PANTS IN TELFORD

Our federation is taking part in the Telford Talk PANTS Week starting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

Talk Pants Week is based on the NSPCC's Talk PANTS campaign, a child safety initiative. The campaign uses the friendly mascot 'Pantosaurus' and the easy-to-remember PANTS acronym to help you teach your child how to stay safe.

The PANTS rules for children:

**P**rivates are private.

**A**lways remember your body belongs to you.

**N**o means no.

**T**alk about secrets that upset you.

**S**peak up, someone can help.

Helpful Resources for Parents include:

Pantosaurus Song: Watch the fun and catchy Pantosaurus video on YouTube to help introduce the rules.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/>

Parents' Guide: Download the official Parents' Guide for detailed tips on how to have these conversations.







## ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

### **Does Your Child Have Exposure to Another Language at Home?**

At our nursery, we value and celebrate the rich cultural and linguistic backgrounds of our children and families. We are currently updating our records to ensure we know which children are considered EAL – English as an Additional Language.

#### **What does EAL mean?**

A child is considered EAL if they were initially exposed to a language other than English during early development and are still exposed to that language at home or in the wider community.

#### **This could mean:**

Your child speaks another language at home.

Your child understands or hears another language spoken by family members (e.g. parents, grandparents), even if they respond in English.

Your household uses more than one language regularly.

#### **Why does this matter?**

Letting us know if your child is exposed to another language helps us ensure the right support is in place.

If your child has been exposed to another language at home or in their early years, even if they speak English fluently, please let us know.

Thank you for your continued support.







## HARVEST FESTIVAL

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will be collecting donations of **dried and packet foods** to support our local food bank. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to learn about kindness, community, and helping others.

We kindly ask families to contribute items such as:

- Pasta, rice, lentils
- Tinned goods (vegetables, beans, soup)
- Cereal, biscuits, tea bags
- Long-life milk or juice
- Instant noodles or packet mixes
- Toiletries such as shower gel, shampoo and toothpaste

Donations can be brought into nursery from  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September until Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October.**

Thank you for your generosity and support in making a difference to families in need this Harvest time.





Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough



# Apply online NOW



## Starting school?

Closing date for applications:

**15 January 2026**

If your child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) the closing date is **31 October 2025**.

**[www.telford.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.telford.gov.uk/admissions)**

- n** You **must** apply if your child was born between 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022.
- n** 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.
- n** You are advised to list four schools on your application form, including your catchment area/nearest school.
- n** Attending a nursery does **not** guarantee a school place.
- n** School places are allocated in line with oversubscription criteria.
- n** See website for more information **[www.telford.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.telford.gov.uk/admissions)** or contact School Admissions at **[admissions@telford.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@telford.gov.uk)**





## KEY DATES



Date	Event
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	PD Day
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Start of the Autumn Term
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Collection of dry foods for harvest
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	First day of Autumn
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Start of Black History Month
W/B Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Stay and Play</b> Baby Room - Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October.
W/B Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Diwali Celebrations





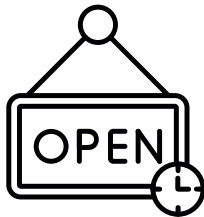
## SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page



## Your Child's Learning

Don't forget to check out our website to find out about all the exciting things the children have been learning about this week:



## Admin Office Opening Hours

The office operates from Monday to Thursday, with opening hours from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM.

On Fridays, the office closes earlier, at 1:00 PM.

Should you need assistance or have any inquiries outside of these hours, you can call the out-of-hours phone on **07340 751171**.

This ensures that support or urgent matters can be attended to even when the office is closed.





# FAMILY SUPPORT



Please see below for an exciting update from the Telford Children's Autism Hub!



## Telford Children's Autism Hub

We are thrilled to announce that we have received extra funding, allowing the Hub to extend its services.

We are now able to provide valuable information, advice, and support to families who are at the pre-diagnosis stage and are on the pathway awaiting an Autism assessment.

Our Children's Autism Hub is open to all children and young people aged 0-18 years and their families, who have a diagnosis of Autism or are on the pre-diagnosis pathway for Autism. To access our Children's Autism Hub you need to be a resident of Telford and Wrekin.

For more information, please go to our website : [About Children's Autism Hub | Telford Autism Hub](#)

[Read more on our pre-diagnosis offer](#)

[SEND Newsletter Information - Feb/Mar](#)



Follow the link below to access more information and the SEND family newsletter:

**[SEND Family Newsletter March 2025 - SEND - Local offer](#)**



## FAMILY SUPPORT



**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/)**

**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



Parents Opening Doors  
'Together we can make a difference'  
<https://www.podstelford.org/>



**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?

