

# Oakengates Nursery School



## Newsletter

### Autumn Term: Week 15

Dear Parents,

This week I am delighted to share the excitement from our recent Christmas celebrations at school.

The children had a wonderful time enjoying a festive Christmas lunch on Wednesday and a lively party on Friday filled with laughter and fun.

We hope that by now you have received and cherished the special creations your children have made in nursery with love and enthusiasm.

Your support and encouragement are very much appreciated, and we are grateful for your involvement.

We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year, ready for more learning adventures together.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy Christmas.

Kind Regards,

*Hannah Firmstone*


Teacher and SENCo


# The Farm On Wheels




The "Farm On Wheels" visit last Friday was a delightful experience for all involved, bringing the charm of rural life directly to the community. Children had the unique opportunity to interact with a range of farm animals, creating lasting memories as they walked sheep and gently stroked a friendly rat. These activities provided a hands-on learning experience, as they engaged with their furry and woolly friends, making the day both educational and enjoyable.

**For enquiries or to learn more about us, please contact us:**

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

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

  
01952 387910



## Holiday Club

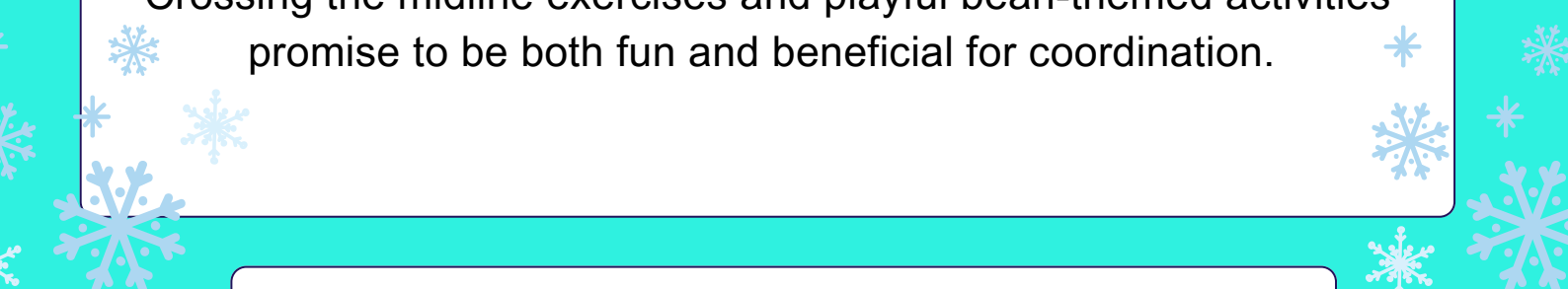
On the 23rd December we will be doing Christmas activities: using Christmas stencils and stampers, finding out 'What The Ladybird Heard at Christmas' and listening to 'The Night before Christmas' story.

Christmas bingo and lotto are the games for the day along with some Christmas yoga and dancing to Christmas music.

As the New Year begins, we will be celebrating National Science Fiction Day on January 2nd with imaginative playdough monster creations and a fun alien-themed story which will surely spark curiosity and creativity.

Physical activities like spacewalking and planet hopping will add an adventurous twist to the day.

On January 3rd, unleashing creativity with loose parts and crafting masterpieces will inspire artistic expression, while the story "The Witch's Cat and the Cooking Catastrophe" adds a magical touch. Crossing the midline exercises and playful bean-themed activities promise to be both fun and beneficial for coordination.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page



# Extraordinary School Closure

In the event of bad weather,  
or unforeseen operational difficulties,  
the Headteacher may take the difficult decision to  
close the school for all or part of a day.

Every effort would be made to keep the school open or give parents  
as much prior notice as possible.

If the nursery must close part way through the day,  
for example because of a threat of freezing or dangerous conditions,  
then a text message and or a telephone call would be made.

In the event of severe weather parents need to listen to the radio stations giving  
out information on school closures:

The Telford and Wrekin school closure page and BBC Radio Shropshire being  
the main source of information for our school.

Click on the link below:

[Telford and Wrekin School/Nursery Closures](#)

We will also post on our Facebook page:



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page

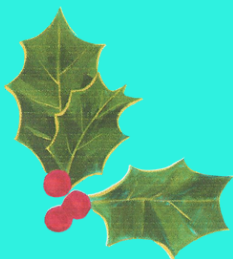




## KEY DATES



Date	Event
Monday 23rd December	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time) 
Thursday 2nd January	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time)
Friday 3rd January	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time)
Monday 6th January	Holiday Club for those children who attend full year (not term time)
Tuesday 7th January	Term time children first day of the spring term



# Invoices

Our administration office will be closed over the Christmas period, so invoices have been sent out earlier than usual. Please note that payment is due by the 7th of January. We kindly ask you to check the bottom of your invoice to view the current balance on your account. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us before the holiday closure.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

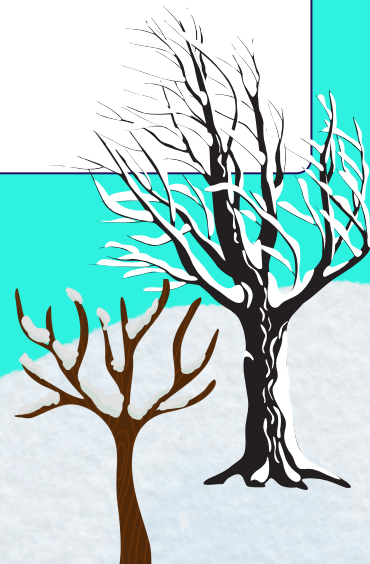
Happy Christmas!



## Your Child's Learning

Don't forget to find out about your child's learning this week from the room page on our website:

**[HTTPS://WWW.OAKENGATESNURSERY SCHOOL.CO.UK/LEARNING-SPACES](https://www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk/learning-spaces)**





**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/)**

**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

**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**

**Apply online  
NOW**



## Starting school?

Closing date for applications:  
**15 January 2025**

If your child has an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) the closing date is **31 October 2024**.

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

- You **must** apply if your child was born between 1 September 2020 – 31 August 2021.
- 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.
- You are advised to list four schools on your application form, including your catchment area/nearest school.
- Attending a nursery does **not** guarantee a school place.
- School places are allocated in line with oversubscription criteria.
- See website for more information [www.telford.gov.uk/](http://www.telford.gov.uk/)



## 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?



**The Wakes**  
COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER



# EARLY HELP



 Telford & Wrekin Cooperative Council | Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

 **learn telford**  
adult learning starts here

**FREE**

# Maths

## Functional skills

### Advanced Level

 City & Guilds

**Time:** 12 - 2:45pm

**Date:** Monday  
24th Feb 2025 - 14th Jul 2025

**Venue:** Donnington Community Hub,  
TF2 7RB

 Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you, there are other venues/days available. For more information visit our website: [www.learntelford.ac.uk](http://www.learntelford.ac.uk)

 **To register please text/call**  
**07866 619328**



 Telford & Wrekin Cooperative Council | Protect, care and invest to create a better borough

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adult learning starts here

**FREE**

# Maths

## Functional skills

### Advanced Level

 City & Guilds

**Time:** 9:15am -12pm  
or  
12:30 - 2:45pm

**Date:** Wednesday  
26th Feb 2025 - 16th Jul 2025

**Venue:** The Wakes, Oakengates,  
TF2 6EP

 Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you, there are other venues/days available. For more information visit our website: [www.learntelford.ac.uk](http://www.learntelford.ac.uk)

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# English

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adult learning starts here

**FREE**

# English

## Functional skills

### Advanced Level

 City & Guilds

**Date:** Tuesday  
25th Feb 2025 - 15th Jul 2025  
**Time:** 9:15 - 11am

**Date:** Thursday  
27th Feb 2025 - 17th Jul 2025  
**Time:** 12 - 2:45pm

**Venue:** The Wakes, Oakengates, TF2 6EP

 Don't worry if the above dates and times don't suit you, there are other venues/days available. For more information visit our website: [www.learntelford.ac.uk](http://www.learntelford.ac.uk)

 **For more information & to register please text/call**  
**078666 19328 or visit our**





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TODDLERS & SCREEN TIME

The toddler years are full of excitement, exploration and energy. It's a critical time in children's development, when brain connections are rapidly forming. Youngsters often begin to discover devices around this age, as they learn to communicate with friends, play games and watch videos (Ofcom recently found, for example, that one in five 3-4-year-olds in the UK uses social media). These activities can make a child happy and relaxed but have a damaging impact if overused. Setting screen time limits for toddlers can be a challenge, so we've pulled together some suggestions for making sure your little one is interacting with the online world in a safe, healthy way.

## ONLINE SAFETY CHECKLIST

### ✓ PARENTAL CONTROLS

Children need to be shielded from content that's not age appropriate. You can do this by adjusting parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and games they use.

### ✓ ONGOING SUPERVISION

Try to stay engaged and present in what your child is doing digitally. Make time to talk about what they enjoy and how they can stay safe online.

### ✓ OFFERING HELP

Teach your toddler to ask for help – and that they should always tell a trusted adult if they're unsure about anything to do with a device, or they see or hear something that makes them scared or upset.

### ✓ COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Emphasise that your child should check with you before they do anything online for the first time – such as watching a new show, playing a new game or exploring a new app.

### ✓ FACE TO FACE IS ACE

Support toddlers' development of language and other skills by prioritising games or apps that encourage face-to-face interaction – like learning to read or count with an adult.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MODEL IT

Your toddler is watching and learning from you whenever you pick up your phone. Even babies are aware of screens and the attention their parents give to them. By showing you know when to put your phone down and focus on something else, you're modelling an important behaviour for them.

### CONTROL IT

Use tech to control tech. Most devices and individual apps have settings that allow you to restrict screen time. Decide on the right length of time and use the settings or a timer to block access. This is especially useful for very young children, who simply see it as the device 'turning off'.

### ANNOUNCE IT

When a toddler's screen shuts off suddenly, it can lead to frustration and tears. Let your little one mentally prepare for the end of screen time by announcing they have five minutes left, two minutes left and so on. You could also set an egg-timer, alarm or buzzer to go off just before time's up.

### DELAY IT

Try to avoid letting children start their day with screen time. Once they're online, it can be hard to get them back offline – and can set a negative tone for the rest of the day. Routine and structure are important for toddlers, so encourage them to enjoy some other activities before the screens go on.

### TRADE IT

You could try offering rewards and alternatives in exchange for screen time – for example, having a device-free day to get a playdate with a friend at the weekend, or skipping screen time one evening in return for a trip to the ice cream parlour tomorrow.

### EARN IT

Screen time can definitely be used as a reward. You could opt for the classic "no screen time until you've tidied up your toys" or you could get creative and award screen time in relation to successful tasks: eating all of their vegetables earns 10 minutes on their device, for example.

### REMOVE IT

Keep family mealtimes, social gatherings, children's bedrooms and other important occasions and places screen free. Remember to turn off TVs that you aren't watching, because even background noise can distract from you spending quality face-to-face time with your young ones.

### SWAP IT

Put together a bag of things that your children love playing with – and get them to help choose what goes in there (items like stickers, pens, small toys, Lego or teddy bears are ideal). Then encourage them to pick something to play with from "the special bag of fun" instead of staring at a screen.

## Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa: a reporting system currently being used to combat bullying in schools and businesses around the world. FaceUp helps to give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up against unacceptable behaviour.

