

Oakengates Nursery School



Newsletter

Spring Term: Week 2

Dear Parents,

This week I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and to share some highlights from our recent week with the children.

It has truly been an exciting time! One of the standout moments was when we retold the traditional story of "The Three Little Pigs." Watching the children get into character and seeing their faces light up while they acted out the roles was simply priceless.

The creativity they displayed, especially when playing the Big Bad Wolf, was truly inspiring. It was heart warming to see how much happiness they found in this activity.

This term, across nursery there will be a focus on the importance of reading and storytelling, and we have exciting news to share - watch this space!

Kind Regards,

Hannah Firmstone

Early Years Lead & SENCo

IMPORTANT RELOCATION NEWS

10th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am delighted to update you on the progress of our new nursery build and pleased to report that everything is progressing well despite some previous delays, and we now have updated timelines to share.

The new nursery is due for completion by Friday 14 February 2025, which is also the last day of this half term. Until this date, we will continue to operate as normal at our current site.

To allow for the move and the setup of the new nursery, the Holiday Club will need to close during the half-term week of Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025.

We sincerely apologise for any inconvenience this closure may cause and hope you understand that this decision is necessary to ensure a smooth and efficient transition to the new site.

As you may already be aware, the new nursery will open at Charlton Street, Oakengates, TF2 6BT with the grand opening on Monday, 24 February 2025. We look forward to welcoming all children to the new site on this date. During this week, parents will be invited into nursery when dropping children off to become familiar with the new setting and help to support settling in.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time of transition. Should you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,





Mrs Jenny Gascoigne.


BA (Hons) PGCE, NPQH

Executive Headteacher

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

 www.oakengatesnurseryschool.co.uk

 oakengates.admin@taw.org.uk

 01952 387910

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

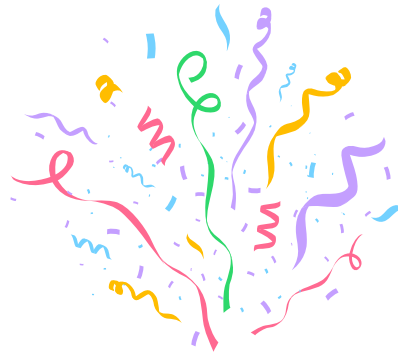


I am delighted to share that Hannah has officially been appointed as the
Early Years Lead at Oakengates Nursery School.

This well-deserved recognition reflects her hard work, dedication, and expertise in
early years education.

Hannah will continue to work closely with the Senior Leadership Team to support
children and staff in achieving the best outcomes.

Please join me in congratulating Hannah on her new role and supporting her as she
takes on this exciting leadership position.



MEET THE STAFF



A message from Beth, early years educator in toddlers.

Hello, my name is Beth,
and I am delighted to introduce myself as an early years educator in the toddler room.

With over a decade of experience in early childhood education, I am passionate about creating a nurturing and stimulating environment where children can thrive. Music is at the heart of my teaching approach, and you will often see me engaging the children with a range of musical activities, from playing instruments to singing and dancing.

I believe that music not only enhances learning but also brings joy and confidence to young minds. I am committed to supporting each child's unique development and look forward to partnering with you in this exciting journey.

I am pursuing a BA (Hons) in Childhood and Youth Studies, not just as an academic journey, but a chance to make a real difference in the lives of young people.

Please feel free to stop by and say hello in the mornings - I'm always at the door with a warm welcome for your little ones!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the image to access our facebook page





KEY DATES



Date	Event
Wednesday 29th January	Chinese New Year
Friday 14th February	Valentines Day
Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February	Half Term Holiday for all term time children
Monday 24th February	Grand Opening of the new nursery
Sunday 30th March	Mothers Day
Tuesday 1st April	Incredible Eggs delivering duckling eggs
Friday 11th April	End of Term

Your Child's Learning

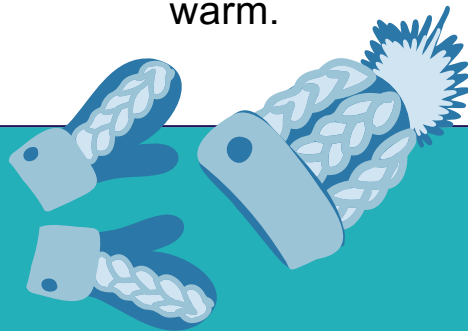
Don't forget to check out our website to find out about all the exciting things the children have been learning about this week:



Colder Weather

As the weather turns colder, it's important to ensure that children stay warm and comfortable during their time at nursery. Please make sure your child comes equipped with a **warm coat, hat, and gloves** each day. These items will help protect them from the chilly temperatures and allow them to enjoy outdoor playtime without discomfort. Dressing in layers can also be beneficial, as it allows children to adjust their clothing for indoor and outdoor activities.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping us keep all the children cozy and warm.





**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 



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?



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

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



 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: 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

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English

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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

 **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.

