



SPRING 1-2026

NEWSLETTER

A place to learn, achieve and grow

Dates for your diary

FEBRUARY

13th - Break up for the half term holiday
WB 16th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)
23rd - Back to nursery (spring 2)

MARCH

4th - World Book Day (book character dress) (actual day = 5th)
16th - Parent consultations week
20th - World Down Syndrome Day (wear different socks to nursery)
25th—Healthy lunches & oral health parent session
27th - Break up for Easter holiday
WB 30th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (2 weeks)

APRIL

13th - Back to nursery (Summer 1)

MAY

4th - Bank holiday (nursery closed)
7th - Jakeman under 2s provision CLOSED for voting day
20th - Early reading parent play & learn session
22nd - Break up for half term
WB 25th - SCHOOL HOLIDAY (1 week)

JUNE

1st - Back to nursery (Summer 2)
18th - Nursery and family trip to Twycross Zoo
24th - Big nursery school transition parent session

JULY

1st - SEND parent coffee morning -transition
6th - Parent consultations week
16th - Last day of provision
17th - Leavers' Graduation Party in the Park

Executive Head Teacher: Sam Richards

Nursery Manager: Janine Maidment

SENCO: Gail Goldberg

Teacher: Hannan Bagl

Office Manager: Amna Bibi

Admin Assistant: Shabnam Hussain

Nursery Practitioners: Kaneez Rafique, Naz Ali, Sabah Kabir (mat leave), Shazeha Akhtar, Farkhanda Jabeen, Khfire Aldhubab, Farzana Bibi, Samira Bi

Head Teacher's message



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your continued support this half term. We started a new calendar year with new children joining us; they are settling well and enjoying the activities on offer. Thank you to all our parents who have helped support your child with their transition into nursery.

A big 'WOW' to our youngest children (Under 2's)! It's been such a privilege watching the children develop since they started with us in September. Thank you to all our parents for allowing us to be part of your child's journey.

Local visit: Children in the nursery class in big nursery went to the Chinese Quarter, visiting the Chinese supermarket to buy ingredients to make new dishes, including a stir-fry.

World Book Day: Children are welcome to dress as a favourite book character or wear their cosy pyjamas on Wed 4th March to celebrate World Book Day with us.

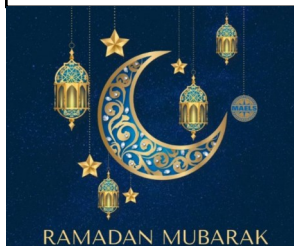
Attendance: Attendance has taken a dip this half term, with absence increasing and both through illness and ad-hock short-term reasons. We encourage positive nursery school attendance habits to maximise early education opportunities.

8:30-9 missed early education entitlement time: We have also noticed that morning sessions starting at 8:30, often aren't being accessed until 9am. Children could be missing 2.5hours of their 15hour entitlement each week!

Parent volunteering: Are there any parents who would like to volunteer to help with planting seeds, with cooking activities or come to share a story with the children in your home language? Our aim is to achieve 10 parent help opportunities before the end of the year! Maybe you have a specific skill you could share or model. Please speak to Hannan if you would be happy to do this, even if only once or twice.

Finally, as we enter half term, lots of our families will be entering the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak to you all.

Look after yourselves and see you on Monday 23rd February. *Sam*



May this holy month
bring you peace, joy and
countless blessings



**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD
RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**

**Children's rights are learned, understood
and lived in this school.**



Contact Us

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Maintained Nursery School'

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school

SPRING CURRICULUM FOCUS



During this half term, children have been learning about oral health and a specialist from NHS has been supporting with oral health routines. Children have been brushing their teeth at nursery and are becoming confident with the brushing routines.

Children have shown great interest in transport, particularly buses. They've shown an interest in different parts of the bus. Some of our children even went on a bus this week with their teachers and parents. We anticipate this interest continuing after the holiday. Could you go on a bus together as a family and tell us all about what you see?

Our studied artist this half term has been Van Gogh and children have enjoyed painting flowers inspired by Van Gogh's Sunflower painting. To extend learning we have looked at a variety of flowers and talked about the similarities and differences.

Mark making for a purpose has really taken off this half term: children are writing shopping lists, doing the register, and writing messages for their grown ups.

Our visiting expert music teacher has introduced the children to some new instruments, and they've been exploring, sound, rhythm and beat. The children worked together to make music; this has been extended by incorporating instruments into story telling. The children have used instruments to express emotions and action in the stories e.g. fast beats for running and soft taps for the tip toe action. Children are creating their own play list, adding familiar favourite songs from home. Children have also linked favourite stories such as 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' to their physical learning and musical exploration.

We have seen an interest in children roleplaying being shop keepers and through this, they have explored number, weight and subitising skills. We also took groups of children weekly to the local shop with our shopping list to buy fresh produce.

Role play in our 2yr olds room has been prompted by their own past experiences and mimicking these, such as playing with dolls and caring for their babies.

Our under 2's are enjoying fitting themselves into spaces, using boxes and dens. They are exploring shape and space by posting into containers and fitting shapes together. →

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

2025/26 year to date	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	78%
Little nursery	78%
Under 2s	84%
All	79%
Attendance this half term	
	Attendance %
Big nursery	76%
Little nursery	79%
Under 2s	83%
All	78%

Please take the time to read our attendance policy and support approach, this can be found here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4jrnpwxr>

We want every child to access as much of their education entitlement as possible.

Our aspiration is to reach 90% attendance this year.

It can be tricky, especially at this time of year, to know when to keep your child off school when they have signs of winter colds. Hopefully the NHS guidance 'Too Ill For School?' below will help.

RRSA links:

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child links = **Article 3:** best interests of the child

Article 28: right to an education

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone nursery on the first day. Let them know that your child won't be in and give them the reason. If the phone is engaged, please leave a message.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Maths workshop, we had a brilliant turnout over the course of the day! Rhyme challenge has been sent home weekly, as well as the Bedtime story challenge, which is currently traditional stories.

NEXT HALF TERM...

Next half term, there will be opportunities for children to learn where their food source comes from through planting and growing, exploring their natural world. They will be learning about the impact of climate change and how we can help protect our planet, particularly through recycling, encouraging reusable resources and reducing plastic waste.

Children will continue to explore music through a variety of media, linking this to early writing and storying. We will be joining in with 'World Book Day', exploring a range of stories through role play.

There will be opportunities to join in and celebrate different cultures such as Ramadan, Eid and Easter.

We are planning an outdoor parent workshop to give parents and carers opportunities to engage in active outdoor learning with their child.

Our under 2's will be accessing a range of physical outdoor equipment to support their balance, and climbing skills, promoting gross motor movements.



March: National Bed Month

Startwell is promoting bed month because it is so important to get a good night's sleep. If children are sleep deprived, they are less likely to be active and more likely to want high sugar/fat foods. National Bed Month is a great time to talk about good bedtime routines and the importance that sleep has on our bodies. Take a look at Startwell's Sleep Page [Sleep - Startwell 2020](#) (also on the final page of this newsletter). Some further websites to support parents with sleep tips are.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/healthy-sleep-tips-for-children/> AND [Helping you and your child sleep | Contact](#)

Sleep tips for under-5s

- Make sure you have a calming, predictable bedtime routine that happens at the same time and includes the same things every night. Establish a bedtime routine, for example bath, pyjamas, story then bed. Try using pictures or timers to help your child understand.
- If your child is going to bed hungry try to get them to eat more in the evening. Remember – some drinks or snacks may affect their sleep.
- If your child complains that they're hungry at night, try giving them a bowl of cereal and milk before bed (make sure you brush their teeth afterwards).
- If your child is afraid of the dark, consider using a nightlight or leaving a landing light on.
- Do not let your child look at laptops, tablets or phones in the 30 to 60 minutes before bed – the light from screens can stimulate the brain and interfere with sleep.
- If your child wakes up during the night, be as unengaging as possible to avoid exciting them and leave lights off if possible.
- Avoid long naps in the afternoon.
- If your child becomes distressed when you leave them, gradually get them accustomed to you not being in the room. Start by sitting and avoiding getting into bed; after a few days, increase the distance between you and your child until they no longer need you to fall asleep.



DFE UPDATE: RECALL OF INFANT FORMULA



Details of the recall

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is asking parents, early years settings and other caregivers to check their infant formula against specific batches of Aptamil and Cow & Gate products listed in the Product Recall Information Notice published on Friday 6 February 2026.

As you might have seen in media coverage and on social media, Danone's recall has been issued due to potential cereulide contamination, which can cause illness including vomiting and stomach cramps. The issue only affects the batches listed in the recall notice, in addition to the product included in Danone's earlier recall on 23 January 2026.

Specific product details can be found here:

[Danone recalls several Aptamil and Cow & Gate First Infant Milk and Follow on Milk formula products because of the possible presence of cereulide \(toxin\) | Food Standards Agency](#)

The FSA's advice to parents and carers is that if they have any of the affected products, stop using them and switch to an alternative formula. If formula was prescribed, they should speak to a pharmacist or doctor before changing. If they have recently fed the formula to their baby and are concerned about symptoms, they should contact their GP or call NHS 111.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FOR FAMILIES

This website shares very important information and tips on keeping children safe.

You can sign up to receive info, resources and safety articles from them.

[Child Accident Prevention Trust | A safer world for all our children](#)



A four-year-old boy died days after swallowing a fridge magnet

Recently, a four-year-old boy died days after swallowing a fridge magnet. An inquest revealed he swallowed a 1cm-by-1cm magnet that was on his fridge. The magnet attracted to a piece of metal it was believed he had swallowed at an earlier date, and tore a hole in his bowel, which led to sepsis and a heart attack.

Tragically, this isn't an isolated incident. In 2025, a study found that around 300 UK youngsters were admitted to A&E in a single year after swallowing magnets. One in 10 required life-saving operations. A safety alert was issued by the Office of Product Safety and Standards in 2021 warning families about small, strong magnets. Yet many families are still unaware of the dangers.

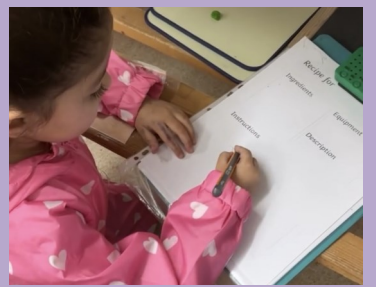
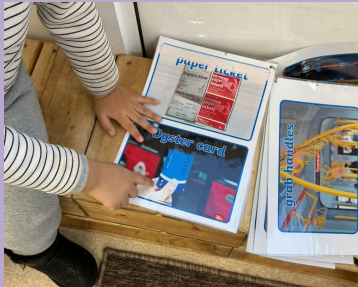
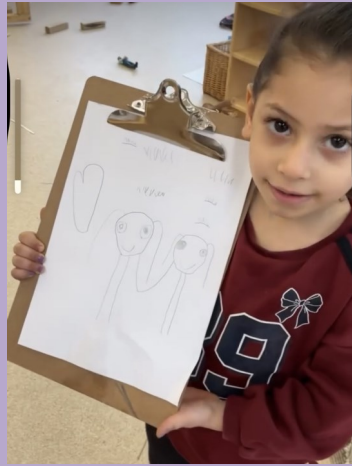
Tips on magnets safety

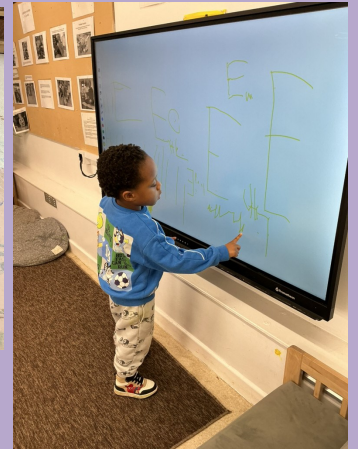
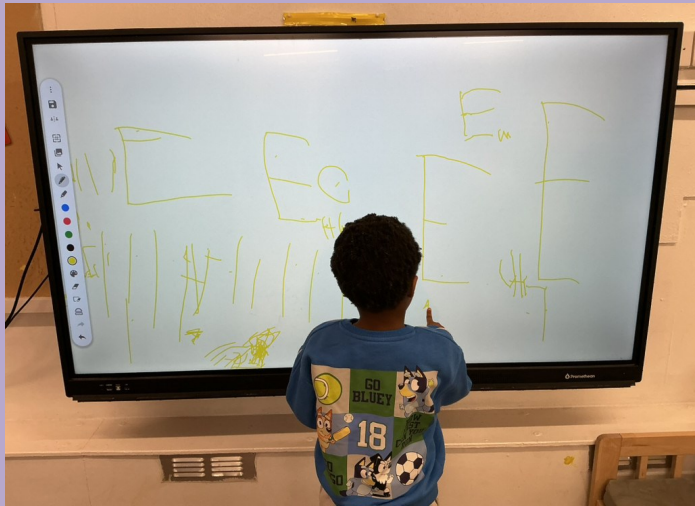
Strong magnets can rip holes through your child's gut if swallowed. Here's how to keep them safe:

1. Avoid small, loose magnets around small children.
2. Only buy magnets from reputable retailers or brand names you know.
3. Teach children to never put magnets in their mouth.

If you think your child may have swallowed a magnet, go straight to A&E or call an ambulance. Do not wait for symptoms to show.







A place to learn, achieve and grow

If you don't yet follow us on **INSTAGRAM**, please do! Janine, Hannan and Sam enjoy posting photos and videos to share what we get up to each week!

SLEEP

Sleep is very important for children. Good sleep for children is linked to many benefits for their physical and mental health including maintaining a healthy weight. Current evidence recommends that pre-school children should be getting a minimum of 10-11 hours of night time sleep.

The last hour before bed should be a quiet period. This means avoiding exciting play, physical activity and exciting/frightening television programmes. Ideally all screen time before bed should be limited. This includes tablets, smartphones, TVs and other electronic gadgets as these can affect how easily children get to sleep.

Children having a favourite soft toy or blanket that they take to bed each night can be helpful. This can help the child fall asleep especially if they wake in the night. Make sure that the toy or blanket is safe without any ribbons or buttons that could be a choking hazard.

To try and get your children to have a good night's sleep a good bedtime routine can help.

Typical bedtime routines are:

Bath



Bed



Startwell

It is important that a bedtime routine is consistent and the bedroom environment is the same every night. The bedroom should be cool, quiet and dark without a TV in the room. A story in the child's bedroom is a calm and relaxing way to end the bedtime routine. Do not let the bedtime routine be too long. 60 minutes is a reasonable time limit. Ideally your child should be taken to their cot or bed while they are still awake so that they can learn to fall asleep without you.

Children will get used to their bedtime routine and understand what is expected from them. This will hopefully lead to a good night's sleep for the child.

For more information on children's sleep and sleep routine speak to your health visitor or visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sleep-and-tiredness/healthy-sleep-tips-for-children/>