Oakwood Primary Academy
Nursery News

Term 6

Keeping you in the loop!

A very warm welcome back to all our nursery families as we begin the final half-term of the year. It's hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by, and we're excited for the final weeks ahead.
As we continue to develop our nursery, we recognise how vital our partnership with parents is. Many of you asked for more nursery-specific communication, and we're pleased to say - we've listened.
We are delighted to introduce our half-termly Nursery Newsletter. This will keep you updated, celebrate learning, and share key developments for our nursery too!
This is an exciting time for our nursery as we continue to enhance our curriculum offer and environment, ensuring every child gets the very best start. It is a privilege to support them in these early years, and we remain committed to helping them become confident, happy learners.
We look forward to a busy and exciting half-term, with more developments to share as we continue to provide a 'ready, respectful and safe' experience for all.

Staff Update

Our nursery team consists of 5 nurturing practitioners. Sam has kindly stepped into the role of interim manager, whilst Teresa sends her love to all families and would like you to know she is taking time to look after herself. Across our different age groups, children are supported by Lisa, Meme and Rafaa. Amy has now moved on from our nursery and Lena continues to support our wraparound care too! Remember you can speak to any member of our staff team if you have a message to pass on or a question to ask - we are always here to help.

Foundations for learning

Throughout the Spring term, we have been fortunate to work alongside Miss Rackham, our Trust Early Years Lead. Alongside our Oakwood team, we have developed our learning spaces so children can access purposeful, engaging provision at all times. This has included redesigning areas for different types of play, as well as creating dedicated spaces for eating and sleeping.

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Drop Off and Pick Up Arrangements

At the start of Week 3, we'll be moving all nursery children into our main space. This change will give children greater opportunities for free-flow learning between indoor and outdoor spaces for the Summer term ahead. It will also support our 'team around the child' approach - allowing all staff to work closely with every child. We're looking forward to all children accessing our provision and environment we've been working hard to repurpose. This approach with mirror the set up within our Oakwood reception and we look forward to sharing further curriculum and reading updates for September with you all too!

To help this set up run smoothly, we will be trialling new drop-off and collection arrangements as follows. All children should enter nursery and be collected via the nursery garden, just off the playground. We'll have staff members ready to greet you and show you to the right set of doors. Our 2-3 year olds (Tiddlers & Superworms) will use the second set of doors and our preschoolers (Gruffalos) will use the first set of doors.

The only change to this will be on Wednesdays, when children arriving or departing at 11:45am, will come through the main nursery entrance either to join us for lunch or depart for home.

We hope that this change will lend itself much better to communication opportunities between our staff team and parents at handover points and thank you for your support as we refine this.

Introducing Nature School

Our Reception children have really enjoyed building opportunities for outdoor learning, and we're excited to bring this into our nursery provision. We will soon be introducing a weekly 'Nature School' day, where children will explore the outdoors through activities such as den building, nature walks, sensory play, and hands-on experiences that encourage curiosity, problem-solving and independence. These sessions support physical development, creativity, confidence, and a love of the natural world.

This will begin in a few weeks' time on Wednesdays. To help your child make the most of these sessions, please ensure they come prepared with sun cream, a hat, and suitable layers of clothing. We can't wait to share all the exciting learning that takes place!

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Healthy Eating

Last term, the children worked really hard to develop their independence during our nursery routines, including meal times. In line with the safer eating guidance that was introduced in September, our team thoroughly check all snacks and food on a daily basis to ensure food is ready for the children. To support you at home, we've included a simple checklist for parents to use if preparing pack lunches too - take a look further on at these key details!

The children have responded brilliantly, sitting together to enjoy their 'snack-of-the-day'. It's our favourite time of the morning, as we value this time for conversation and connection. We're proud to continue this offer as part of our HALO scheme, providing a healthy morning snack of a carbohydrate and fruit, alongside milk.

From term 5, we want to shout about...

Smashing Sensory Time

Sunflower Super Stars!

Creative Crafting

Role-play Explore Time

Amazing Arts & Crafts

Fantastic fine-motor skills

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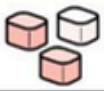
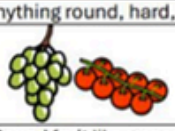
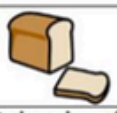
Safer Eating Guidance for Families

Children below the age of 5 years old are at a higher risk of choking. To help reduce the risk of choking please follow this guidance below when preparing your child's lunchbox.

Foods to Remove			
			
Nuts and foods containing nuts	**Popcorn** Hard food like **popcorn** can easily get stuck.	**Marshmallows** get sticky when wet so can seal the airway and may not come out with back blows.	**Round hard sweets (including mini-eggs)** are slippery so can easily be swallowed and completely block the airway.

Foods to Cut Up Think anything round, hard, chunky, doughy or stodgy						
Examples being but not limited to:						
	Sausages or hot dogs – cut into short, narrow strips lengthways as thin as possible. Removing the skin makes them easier to swallow.	**Meat – cut into strips and remove any bones, skin or fat.**	**Round fruit** like grapes, blueberries, cherries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes – **cut lengthways and then into quarters.**	**Vegetables and larger fruit** like melon, apple, mango, carrot and cucumber – **cut into thin strips**. You can grate or mash soft food or steam or simmer harder food to soften it, especially for weaning or very young children.	**Cheese – cut into narrow batons or strips.**	**White bread** can form a doughy ball in the throat, so **brown or toasted bread** is a good option. **Cut all types of bread into narrow strips.**

Dates for Term 6

Monday 1st June
Start of term 6

START

Friday 26th June
INSET Day: Nursery still open.

W/C 29th June
Transition days - more information to follow shortly!

Monday 6th July
Parent coffee morning: supporting children's resilience.

Friday 10th July
Nursery reports to be sent home

Tuesday 14th July
Summer Fayre after-school

Tuesday 21st July
Last Day of term

Wednesday 22nd July
INSET Day - nursery closed

You can find our 2026-27 term dates for nursery on our school website here: https://www.oakwoodprimaryacademy.org/term-dates

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Final Invite

To celebrate our Gruffalo pre-schoolers end of a nursery era, we'll be passing them through their nursery graduation, as they get ready to embark upon their reception journey.

We hope that families will be able to join us for this event, arriving via the main school office at the time below. Where possible, we kindly ask that any prams are parked in our shelter.