

autumn 2 newsletter



As always, the autumn term at nursery is flying by. The children who returned to us in September are enjoying their new groups and all the new children have settled well. We are now speeding towards Christmas and we hope you can join us for the upcoming rhyme challenges and Christmas craft days. Please check Tapestry for dates and times.



We were delighted to welcome some volunteers from Vodafone in October. They spent the morning clearing the beds and planters outside reception and planted some winter flowers and shrubs. I'm sure you will all agree they have really brightened up our front entrance.



We had a wonderful gift from West Berkshire Libraries on behalf of Booktrust this term - a beautiful teddy bear for every child. I hope the children enjoy snuggling up with their bear to listen to stories at home. A bedtime story every night is a great way to connect with your child, support their language development and foster a love of books.



Those of you who are regular Family Hub users will be aware that West Berkshire Council are moving the hub out of Victoria Park at the end of term and they will be based at the Phoenix Centre from January. We will be very sad to see the family Hub leave the nursery site. However, we hope to continue our strong partnership in supporting families.

A reminder that we have reserved the last day of this term for the children's Christmas Parties. Times are on the diary dates overleaf, but please note that the classes will be CLOSED at other times on that day. All children are invited, whether or not they usually attend on a Thursday.

We are all looking forward to a very festive end to the calendar year!



Lynda Shepherd
Headteacher



There have been some festivals to celebrate already this half term, and the staff have planned lots of activities around Diwali and Bonfire Night. It was lovely to see some of the children sharing how they celebrate Diwali at home and to welcome parents to the Diwali Craft sessions! The children are starting to learn new songs and rhymes, and we are looking forward to sharing them with you at Rhyme Challenge on 3rd and 10th December. More information about this and the Christmas Craft Days will be on Tapestry.



SAFEGUARDING: please make sure we have at least 2 phone numbers where we can contact you or a family member of friend in case of emergencies. If the school has to shut suddenly or if your child has an accident, we may need to contact you at short notice.

Just a reminder to keep a change of clothes in your child's bag on their peg in case of accidents! Now the weather is getting colder, it's advisable to provide extra clothes and socks. Please make sure they have a suitable coat and all clothing is named, including shoes.

We are happy to receive donations of pre-worn wellington boots, waterproofs, gloves and hats. Please give donations to staff in your child's group.

We were delighted to welcome back Ria this term, who has returned to work with us in Willow Group. We also have three new members of staff joining us in Chestnut group January - Mrs Sheneka Lawson (teacher), Grace Tute (TA) and Deva Kiruba (TA).

Thank you to everyone who took part in the treasure hunt organised by The Friends of Victoria Park over half term. Together, you raised £216.80, which will go towards the children's Christmas celebrations.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with parties for both groups on Thursday 18th December. Just a reminder that nursery will ONLY be open for the party times, and the classes will be CLOSED at other times. All children are invited, even if they don't normally attend on a Thursday.

We are grateful to the Friends of Victoria Park for providing the funding for a small gift for each child.

This year, we have many children with dietary requirements or food allergies. So rather than asking for food donations, for the children's safety, we have decided to ask you for a small ££ donation instead, and we will do the food shopping. Please let classroom staff or Maddie in the office have your donation. Many thanks and Happy Christmas!



The staff and governors have recently updated the nursery school's Vision and Values.

Our vision: Together we encourage young minds through creative play to be curious, independent and resilient .

Our Values: Happy, Safe, Nurtured, Valued, Fun

We believe that creative play is not just a pastime but a powerful tool that unlocks a child's potential, transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. By fostering a sense of curiosity, we are encouraging young minds to ask questions, explore new ideas, and build a foundation of lifelong learning. Our mission is to create a nurturing environment where children feel safe to dream big, experiment freely, and find joy in the process of discovery, all while developing the critical thinking skills that will empower them to shape a brighter future.

Play is one of the most important needs children have and they don't just need this at nursery. We encourage parents to engage in daily playtimes with your child. Take a look at the playtime games for you and your toddler on the Tiny Happy People website for some play ideas.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/2-to-3-year-old-child-development-activities>



diary dates

5 Nov	Autism drop-in at The family Hub with Liz Paterson (advisor). 9:15-10:30.
3 Dec	Willow Group Rhyme challenge Chestnut Group Christmas Craft Day More information to follow on Tapestry.
3 Dec	Autism drop-in at The family Hub with Liz Paterson (advisor). 9:15-10:30.
10 Dec	Chestnut Group Rhyme challenge Willow Group Christmas Craft Day More information to follow on Tapestry.
18 Dec	Christmas Parties and last day of term. Willow Group: 9.00 to 11.00 am Chestnut Group: 11.30 to 12.30 pm Please note that classes will be CLOSED outside of these times.
5 Jan	Home visits to new children.
6 Jan	Willow Class Opens - breakfast and tea clubs run as normal.
7 Jan	Chestnut Class Opens

Keep in touch with us!

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We are also on Facebook - search for Victoria Park Nursery School, Newbury.
and
Instagram: Victoria_Park_Nursery_School

CHRISTMAS ARTS AND CRAFTS

If you have any spare art or craft materials at home that we could use in school to create some Christmas goodies, please donate to your classroom staff.
Many thanks!

