

Newsletter – January 2025

I would just like to welcome everyone to the start of a new year. We hope everyone has had a restful Christmas break. It has been a very busy couple of weeks in Houghton Community Nursery, with many new children starting in the Nest, The Den and the Main Nursery. It has been wonderful to see how quickly all of the children have settled and how they are enjoying the wide range of activities that are on offer.

Myself and the staff are enjoying getting to know both the children and families and are excited about what lies in store for the year ahead. As you will see from the newsletter this half term is extremely busy so please make a note of the different dates.

Family Winter Walks

We would like to invite families to join us on a seasonal Winter walk to our local Houghton rectory park where we can search for signs of Winter and explore our local area together. We would ask one significant adult to join us on the dates and times as follows:

Main Nursery- Thursday 13th February

Den-Friday 14th February am

Nest Friday 14th February pm

Further information will follow via see saw.



RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch

The **RSPB are holding their annual 'Big Garden Bird watch'** which will take place **Friday 24th - Sunday 26th January**. Within nursery, children will be

learning about our garden wildlife and taking part in our own 'garden bird watch'. We would love if you could join in with this at home and continue it over the weekend by recording any sightings you may find, via seesaw. If you wish to find out more details about this event please visit the RSPB website: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch>

Family workshops

Every half term we offer parents within main nursery the opportunity to come into school and spend time with their child playing in our provision. Our next workshop will take place in our **STUDIO on Friday 31st January**. This is an opportunity for you to explore the areas and activities that are on offer within that space with your child. Please see the times below for each family group:

9:00 – 10:00 Kathryn/Mrita's group

10:15 – 11:15 – Caitlin's group

12:30 – 1:30 - Charlotte's group

1:45 -2:45 –Elizabeth's group

3:00 – 4:00 - Molly's group

National Story Telling week - 3rd

February – 7th February

'National Story telling week'. Within nursery, we will be focussing on stories and over the week, we will create our own stories within our family groups and areas. We will be sending home via see saw a connection for you to take part in if you choose to partake in family storying.

Safer internet day – Tuesday 11th February

We will talk about the importance of internet safety in school on this day. We are also holding a Zoom call for all of our children and families to join where we will sing some songs and introduce being safe online. This will take place on our Wellbeing Wednesday 12th February at 4pm. More details on this will follow soon.

Early maths talk (Parents./Carers only) - **Wednesday 19th February 3:30-4:30pm**

Many of you have asked about how maths is taught within early years and how you can support this important area of development at home. Join us as we discuss the many different ways we support children within nursery. Please note this isn't a stay and play workshop but a discussion about early maths – it really is only suitable for parents/carers only. If you wish to attend, please drop your key worker a message.

Parent/Carer's and Key worker meetings:

Over the course of the school year, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's key worker at a specific time and date where we can discuss your child's achievements along with their next steps in their learning. Our Spring term invites will come via see saw, however we wanted to give you the dates in advance. See the table below



Well-being Wednesday 12th February – Nature Appreciation.

We will spend time outdoors in our garden, appreciating our natural world whilst taking time to listen to environmental sounds and sharing stories around the campfire.

50 things to do:

All new families to main nursery will soon receive '50 things' to do over your child's journey with us. When you join us in our workshop days and achieve these specific tasks you might like to tick them off the list in your book and over your time with us hopefully you will have gained some treasured memories of your time together.

Makaton Termly workshop

Our next makaton workshop will take place on - **Tuesday 4th March 2:15-2:45**

This is for parents/carers only. The workshop is an opportunity to understand the benefits of Makaton along with learning some initial Makaton signs that you could use to support communication skills within our community. Please let your child's key worker know via see saw if you would like to attend.

The Nest:

Becka's group - Monday 10th February
Julie's group - Tuesday 11th February
Danielle's group – Thursday 13th February

The Den:

Laura's group Monday 3rd February
Julie's group - Tuesday 4th February
Hayley's group – Wednesday 5th February
Sara's group – Thursday 6th February
Kathryn and Mllie's groups – Friday 7th February

Main Nursery

Kathryn and Mrita's group – Friday 14th February
Molly's group – Monday 17th February
Caitlin's Group – Tuesday 18th February
Elizabeth's Group – Thursday 20th February
Charlotte's group – Friday 21st February

Our School Curriculum

For our new families; over the next few days, you will be sent via see saw each area of learning from the Statutory Early Years Framework (EYFS), along with our own school curriculum and how it is built upon the EYFS framework. For our returning families we have already sent this, however it is an opportunity to revisit our curriculum and for our new families it is an opportunity become familiar with our curriculum, and you will see our curriculum displayed within each entrance to school. Your child's learning stories will reflect our curriculum. If you would like any further information, please do ask your child's key worker.



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Head Teacher: Sarah Dixon-Jones

A few reminders:

- Please remember to put your child's name in ALL OF THEIR clothes, including shoes.
- Please can all parents of children who have moved 'rooms' make sure that their child's information is up to date in particular your address, telephone numbers, and medical information.
- Please remember that if you child has sickness or diarrhoea that they must stay away from nursery for 48hrs.
- If any new medication has been administered children must not come into nursery for 48 hours.
- Spare clothes.
- Please remember to send spare sets of named clothes in your child's bag each day including socks.

NSPCC National Number Day – Friday 7th February

To celebrate **national number day**, we have decided to dress in numbers. On **Friday 7th February**, children are welcome to come to nursery wearing an outfit which has numbers on it. For example, this could be clothes with numbers visible, a number badge, or you could make your own number themed outfit to wear. Throughout the day, we will be taking part in lots of mathematical activities within our areas. Whilst also considering the meaning of numbers in everyday life.

Car Park



The nursery only has a small car park which is for staff. Please can I ask that parents park away from the school and walk up when dropping off and collecting children.

Please can we also ask people to be considerate about where they park on the surrounding streets and don't block anyone's drive ways etc.

Contact Information

Please remember to keep your contact information updated with us. Inform the office and keyworker if your contact details change or there are any changes to circumstances. Our Seesaw App should be fully up and running for communicating with each other. Ask your key worker for further details.

Children's Mental health week: 3rd-9th February

Children's mental health week takes place between 3rd and 9th February and this year the theme is 'Know yourself, Grow yourself'.

To celebrate this, within nursery we will be thinking all about what mental health is and taking part in activities which support good mental health and wellbeing.

Chinese New Year – Chinese new year begins on Saturday 29th January. To celebrate we will be learning all about Chinese New Year across our Nursery provision.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

As a maintained school we are required to take in-service training days throughout the school year. As a result, both the nursery and childcare **will close early at 4pm on the following dates**

January 29th
March 26th
May 14th
June 25th

In addition, please note the following days that both nursery and childcare will be closed:

11th April 2025
2nd June 2025

Half Term Holiday
Nursery closes on Friday 21st February and reopens on Monday 3rd March

Nursery remains open to all families with an All Year Round Contract



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