

Big Nursery Newsletter

OCTOBER 2021



Term dates

Term ends – Friday 22nd October

Half term – Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October

Parent Consultations (telephone) - Week beg 22nd November

Term ends - Friday 17th December

Training Day - Tuesday 4th January 2022

Training Day - Monday 25th April 2022

Training Day - Monday 6th June 2022

Training Day - Thursday 21st July 2022



Parker Poundasaurus

We are excited to introduce you to 'Parker Poundosaurus' in our Big Nursery. Parker Poundosaurus is often hungry and likes to eat coins. Children are welcome to feed a £1 weekly voluntary contribution to Parker to help raise money for nursery funds for special activities like 'Growing Day' and to buy new resources for the children to enjoy. Parker Poundosaurus will join us at the beginning of sessions and will be located outside Nursery.



80th Birthday

We are excited for our 80th birthday in May, and we are busy planning lots of exciting things for this - more details will follow during the year.



Primary School starters September 2022

Nursery children that are starting school in September 2022 **must** apply for their school place before **Friday 15th January 2022** in order to be allocated a primary school place. You can make your application online by following the steps on the website at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions National offer day is Friday 19th April 2022.

Germs

Can we remind children to cough and sneeze into their elbow to help

Cough and sneeze?
Elbow, please!



prevent germs spreading. We are encouraging regular handwashing and the use of hand gel.



Children's Safety

As part of our commitment to keeping children safe, 5 members of our staff in Big Nursery hold a Paediatric First Aid Qualification



TEACHING AND LEARNING

The teaching focus is currently exploring nature and identifying seasonal changes during Autumn. The children have particularly enjoyed exploring a range of pumpkins and squashes to observe and compare similarities and differences. During outdoor learning, we have been exploring the natural learning environment and looking for different coloured leaves, acorns, conkers and pine cones. The children have then used these objects for counting, sorting, small world play and creative activities. They have particularly enjoyed mathematical investigative work as they made discoveries about the weight of objects. Mathematical language has been introduced and extended, as they have compared the size, shape and weight of autumn resources.



The children recently participated in the community Scarecrow Festival and worked together collaboratively with their key workers to create their scarecrows. During this activity, the children worked together creatively and used lots of recycled resources for their creations. Some children demonstrated resilience and perseverance skills, as they helped to thread plant pots or dress the scarecrows.

Through 'Blaze the Bear' fire safety work, children have been learning about fire safety and keeping themselves safe. They have learnt about potential fire hazards and the role of a fire fighter. This has increased their awareness of their own personal safety. This learning will be further reinforced when we have fire alarm practices within the nursery.



We have recently introduced the story of 'The Little Red Hen' to support Literacy learning. The children are developing their communication skills through identifying story characters and joining in with the repeated refrains in the story. The story has also been used as a provocation to help children to explore the importance of working together and helping others. We are planning for the children to have the opportunity to try freshly baked bread and toast at nursery as a snack-time activity. We hope that you will support this learning at home during October half-term with 'The Little Red Hen' home learning packs.



School Day

Please note that during the School day, Nursery staff in the classrooms are teaching and are not always able to take a phone call regarding your child. Office staff will answer your query if they can or will take a message and will get back to you.



50 Things to do in Warwickshire App

On **Wednesday 10th November** at Stockingford Nursery School we are having a special activity day to launch the **50 Things to do in Warwickshire App**. This will be a fun day with the children getting the opportunity to participate in a range of activities at nursery from the App including creative activities, den making, music & dancing. We are hoping to have a special visitor to join us for our celebrations. Information will also be available about Family learning.



During the day, the Library will be providing story -time sessions for you to attend with your nursery child. If you would like to join us for a Library session, please book your place at the library.

The 50 Things to do in Warwickshire App:

<https://warwickshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!50thingstodobefore5/welcome>

Family Learning

On our Stockingford Nursery School Website:

www.stockingfordnurseryschool.co.uk we have created a new page titled **Family Learning**. This gives links and information about free opportunities for parents and carers to access Family Learning provided by Warwickshire County Council. The courses for Autumn 2 are offered online or at some community venues and have been planned with a range of different time slots. If you would like to find out more about Family Learning please contact: cherylneil@warwickshire.co.uk or visit their website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/acf

Forest School

The children in Big Nursery will be visiting our Forest School site for outdoor learning sessions on a **Friday**. We will send text messages to let you know when it will be your child's key worker groups turn. As the weather will be turning colder, please could you make sure your child is dressed appropriately and they bring a warm coat, hats and gloves. Wearing trousers is advised as they will have the opportunity to climb and explore the outdoor, natural environment. We have some waterproofs and wellingtons available at nursery for your child, but you are welcome for your child to wear their own wellies if they wish.





Early years choking hazards food safety advice

For babies and young children, food can be a choking hazard, especially when they do not chew their food well or they try to swallow it whole.

Choking can happen with any foods, but 'firm foods', bones and small round foods that can easily get stuck in the throat present a higher risk. Therefore, care givers should follow these five essential steps:

- 1** Make sure food is **suitably prepared and served** for babies and children under 5 years old. For suitable foods, see <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/>. Introduce babies to solid foods from around 6 months of age.
- 2** **Think about size, shape and texture of food.** Cut food into narrow batons, avoid round shapes and firm foods. Firm fruit & vegetables can be softened by cooking.
- 3** Ensure that babies and young children are **alert and seated safely upright** in a highchair or appropriately sized low chair whilst eating.
- 4** **Babies and young children should be supervised at all times** while eating. You will be able to identify the early signs of choking and prevent harm.
- 5** **Encourage babies and young children to chew food well.** Teach children how to chew and swallow food properly, and ensure they take their time during meals. This will reduce their risk of choking.

Care givers and parents should be familiar with how to respond to a choking incident in line with guidance on first aid for children:

How to stop a child from choking: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/>

How to resuscitate a child: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/>

Early years food choking hazards

Below is a table of advice on key foods for care givers who are involved with preparing and serving food for babies and young children (under 5 years old)

Vegetable and fruits	Advice
Pips or stones in fruit	Always check beforehand and remove hard pips or stones from fruit.
Small fruits	Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces: cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters).
Large fruits and firm fruits	Cut large fruits like melon and firm fruits like apple into slices instead of small chunks. For very young children, consider grating or mashing firm fruits, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Vegetables	Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. For very young children consider grating or mashing firm vegetables and legumes like butter beans, chickpeas and tofu, or softening them up by steaming or simmering.
Skin on fruit and vegetables	Consider removing the skin from fruit and vegetables, especially for very young children. Peeled fruit and vegetables can be swallowed more easily.
Cooking fruit and vegetables	Consider softening firm fruit and vegetables (such as carrots, broccoli, yam and apples) by steaming or simmering until soft. Serve cut into slices or narrow batons.
Meat and fish	Advice
Sausages and hot dogs	Cut sausages and hot dogs into short strips. Cut them in half and then lengthways or as thinly as possible. Peeling the skin off the sausages helps them to be swallowed more easily.
Meat or fish	Remove bones from meat or fish. Cut meat into strips as thinly as possible. Remove skin and fat from meat and fish, it will help the food pass smoothly down the throat.
Cheese	Advice
Grate or cut cheese	Grate or cut cheese into short strips. Cut lumps of cheese as narrow as possible.
Nuts and seeds	Advice
Chop or flake whole nuts	Chop or flake whole nuts, peanuts and seeds. Whole nuts should not be given to children under five years old.
Bread	Advice
White bread and other breads	White bread can form a ball shape with a dough-like texture at the back of a child's throat, if not chewed properly. Brown bread or toasted white bread are good alternatives. Cut bread, chapatis, naan bread and other breads into narrow strips.
Snacks and other foods	Advice
Popcorn	Do not give babies and young children popcorn.
Chewing gum and marshmallows	Do not give babies and young children chewing gum or marshmallows.
Peanut butter	Do not give babies and young children peanut butter on its own, only use as a spread.
Jelly cubes	Do not give babies and young children raw jelly cubes.
Boiled sweets and ice cubes	Do not give babies and young children boiled, hard, gooey, sticky or cough sweets, or ice cubes.
Raisins and other dried fruits	Do not give babies under the age of 1 whole raisins or dried fruits. Cut them into small pieces.

Make sure food is prepared appropriately for children under 5 years old, see: <https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/weaning/>

It is also advisable that care givers are familiar with how to respond to a choking incident, see: How to stop a child from choking: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-stop-a-child-from-choking/> and how to resuscitate a child: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/first-aid-and-safety/first-aid/how-to-resuscitate-a-child/>

Face coverings

Face coverings may still be worn by parents - particularly if you come into Reception. Government guidance expects and recommends that they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where you may come into contact with people you don't normally meet. Staff may wear a face mask in certain situations if this is felt to be required.

Thank you for your understanding to ensure we keep everyone safe.



First Aid procedures

- At Nursery our paediatric first aiders will support children with any first aid or injuries that may occur. All major first aid incidents will be recorded and logged on first aid forms and this describes what happened and treatment provided. Parents/Carers will be required to sign these forms when they collect their child from nursery.
- We also have minor first aid forms which are kept at nursery and parents aren't required to sign these. These are used for low level incidents e.g. a child falling over and no treatment or visible injury that requires first aid attention. They may also be used for low level scratches or minor bruises. Parents are welcome to ask a member of staff if they wish to find out more information about their child.
- Please continue to keep the nursery staff team updated with any injuries, bruises, cuts or bumps that your child has at home, so that we can log this information on our existing injury forms.



If your child is absent from Nursery

Please remember to contact the Nursery on the day your child is going to be absent, you can either:



Telephone 02476 383708
Text 07511 213751
Email parents1041@welearn365.com

(please ensure you put your child's full name and the reason for their absence in the text)

They should be at home until you feel they are well enough to come back to school. In the case of **sickness and diarrhoea** please make sure your child is symptom free for at least **48 hours** before returning to Nursery.



Please could you make sure all your phone numbers are up to date if not please let the office know of any changes.

REMINDER

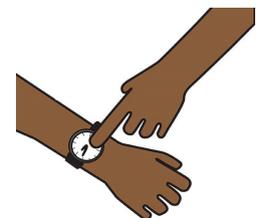
If your child is having to self-isolate can you phone 02476 383708 or if they have taken a COVID test due to having either a cough, temperature or loss of taste/smell, please can you email the results to parents1041@welearn365.com



Session Times

Nursery sessions are:

- 👉 9.00am - 11.30am for the morning session.
- 👉 12.40pm - 3.10pm for the afternoon session.



Please make sure you are on time for the start of sessions as this does have an impact on teaching time and please collect your child on time as children can become a little upset if they are collected later. Thank you.

Well being corner

Try to focus on taking notice this time as one of the 'Five ways to well-being'

1. Take notice
2. Keep learning
3. Connect
4. Be active and be creative
5. Play

Reminding yourself to 'take notice' can strengthen and broaden your awareness. Studies have shown that being aware of what is taking place in the present directly enhances your well-being and savouring 'the moment' can help to reaffirm your life priorities.

Take some time to enjoy the moment and the environment around you. Here are a few ideas:

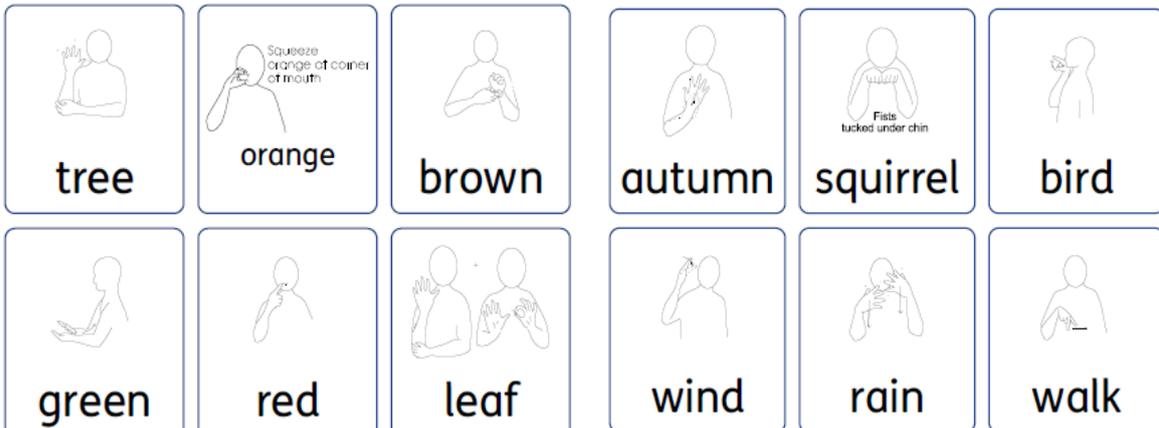
- Get a plant for your home or workspace
- Have a 'clear the clutter' day
- Take notice of how people are feeling or acting
- Take a different route on your journey to or from home, school work
- Visit a new place for lunch or coffee.

Makaton signs of the Month - October

We will be helping children to communicate through Makaton signs and spoken language.



We are proud to say we are a
Makaton accredited School



Advice & Support



Warwickshire Health Visiting
TEXT Chat Service

ADVICE & SUPPORT
for parents of pre-school children
in Warwickshire

TEXT: 07520 615293
9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only, which will be charged at your normal rate.

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY SERVICE
For urgent medical attention please contact your GP or call 111 or 999

CHAT Health

A texting advice service for parents and carers of the pre-school child.

If you have any questions about your pre-school child, or your own health and well-being you can use our texting service 07520 615293 anytime. A health visitor will aim to text you back within 2 hours in normal working hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, excluding Bank Holidays).

Please note we support messaging from UK numbers only, which will be charged at your normal rate.

Family Support Drop In for advice for all families in Warwickshire

For families, children and young people 0-19 years old, or 0-25 years with additional needs

Duty Line 01926 412412
9am – 4pm Monday – Friday



Family Information Service (FIS)

We provide information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including:

- family relationships
- finance
- housing
- parenting support
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- childcare health and wellbeing



Phone: 01926 742274

Website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>