

Knaphill Nursery Autumn Term

Newsletter 2020



Welcome to Knaphill Nursery

Firstly, we would like to say a warm hello to all the new children and families joining us this term, and welcome back to all those returning after the summer break. If you have not met me already, I would also like to introduce myself. I am Miss Wisdom, the Nursery teacher. The whole Nursery team and I have had a wonderful first few weeks getting to know all the new children, and we are really looking forward to working closely with you over the coming year.



Key dates for your diary



- ❖ **Inset Day** Monday 2nd November 2020
- ❖ **Last day of Autumn Term** Friday 18th December 2020 at 1.30 pm

Reminders

At this time of year when the weather gets colder, we would like to remind parents and guardians to make sure that your children bring clothing suitable for playing outside such as coats, hats and gloves. If you would like to send your child in with their own pair of wellies, these can be kept under their own peg and accessed when needed (please be aware that some of the best learning can be very messy ☺). Please ensure that all clothes and shoes are clearly **labelled**, particularly items they are likely to take off.

Tapestry Online Learning Journal

As many of you will know, we use an online journal system to monitor your child's progress whilst they are with us. You should all have received an activation link for your child's page but please let us know if you have not yet received this.



Tapestry enables us to share your child's learning at Nursery with you, particularly over their focus week, as well as any notices or information we may need to communicate with you. When we place a new observation into your child's journal, you will get an email to allow you to view and comment on it.

We would also love to hear about what your child is able to do at home as well. You can upload a 'Proud Cloud' on Tapestry to share with us your child's wonderful achievements from home - maybe special things they have achieved or are beginning to master for example, swimming, riding a bike or putting their coat on independently. Please use the title #proudcloud and add a short description of a child's proud moment. A photo or video can also be attached if you manage to capture it on film. We will make sure that children have time at Nursery to share their Proud Clouds and celebrate their achievements with their friends.

If you need any help uploading to Tapestry, then please let us know.

Focus Weeks

Every week, we will select several '**focus children**' from the Nursery whose individual observations will be recorded on Tapestry. Each child will be a 'focus child' for 1 week each term (3 times in total over the course of the year). When your child has been chosen, you will receive a consultation sheet to fill in (via Tapestry or by hand) with any details you may want to share, e.g. any exciting news, anything happening at home, holidays etc.

You will also be asked to upload to Tapestry some recent photos of your child at home, for us to look at and talk about together with your child. We would be grateful if you could upload/return these sheets by the date stated, as they are key to documenting your child's learning and progression.



If it is not your child's focus week then please be reassured that lots of learning is still taking place. Adults will still be supporting and extending all children's learning and will record group observations and 'Wow' moments on Tapestry. This will ensure that practitioners' time is best spent interacting with the children, and facilitating their learning.

Key Person meetings

Your child's Key Person meeting will take place the week after your child's focus week. You will be invited into the Nursery for a short meeting to update you on your child's progress and the fantastic learning we have observed throughout their focus week.

We are asking for your help ...

As you can imagine, your children love tipping out their bags to find what they need. This is fantastic and the start of independence, however if the items are unnamed we are left with a complete muddle of clothing. Please take a few minutes to write, stamp, stick or iron your child's name to ALL clothing brought to Nursery, as well as their lunch box and water bottle.

We are also asking for a kind donation of plastic bags. We often send wet clothes home secured in a plastic bag, and need to keep our supplies high. If you do have any spares at home, a donation would be greatly appreciated.

Helping your child at home

A list of information and documents that you may find helpful can be found on the Nursery Section on the School website under the 'Helping at Home' tab.

<https://www.knaphill-lower.surrey.sch.uk/news/?pid=25&nid=14>

Celebrating Birthdays

We really enjoy celebrating children's birthdays with them at Nursery, however due to our Federation safety measures, we are unable to hand out sweets or items of food to eat.



We would still love to celebrate your child's birthday with them, so here are a few ideas of the things we can do.

- We can light the candles on a (pretend) birthday cake and sing the happy birthday song.
- Your child can bring their favourite book to Nursery with them, to read with their friends during group time.
- You can upload a video onto Tapestry of your child opening or showing us one of their presents, which we can then talk about at Nursery.

If you have any other ways in which you would like to celebrate a birthday, please have a chat with a member of the Nursery team!

Lending Library

The lending library is located in the cloakroom next to the children's pegs. There is a selection of books across different genres and topics for the children to borrow and read at home, as well as a selection of games and puzzles. The items available to borrow from the library will be changed regularly. If you are looking for a book on a particular topic, please ask a member of staff.

If you would like to borrow an item from the library, please write your child's name and the name of the book/puzzle onto the sign-out sheet, and return it to us when you have finished. All items returned to Nursery will be quarantined for 72 hours before being replaced into the library.

Starting School September 2021

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 (born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017) you can apply online for a place from 2nd November 2020. Applications can be found on the Surrey County Council website and the closing date is January 15th 2021.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply>

Our Learning This Term:

As **communicators**, the children will be continuing to develop speaking and social interaction skills including listening, turn taking and considering their own and others' emotions. The children will be encouraged to share achievements from home with their group at Nursery. These can be recorded as a 'Proud Cloud' and sent to us via Tapestry.

As **healthy learners**, the children will have weekly opportunities to dance and play games to promote gross motor movement and teamwork skills. They will also be able to join in with the 'Dough Disco' twice a week to develop fine motor skills, and strengthen their fingers and hands.

As **readers**, we will be sharing a range of different stories and books, encouraging the children to recall and sequence events, answer questions about the story and consider the characters' feelings and actions.

As **artists**, we will have the opportunity to make marks in different ways, on and with a variety of mediums, and experiment with creating 3D structures through junk modelling, clay and salt dough.

As **scientists**, we will be building on our understanding of the world by thinking about similarities and differences in ourselves, and in the world around us. We will be looking at the seasons, and talking about how things grow and change over time.

As **mathematicians**, we will continue to practise counting, recognising and representing numbers in different ways. The children will be encouraged to compare sets of objects, recognising when they are equal, and use language to describe differences such as more, less, bigger and smaller.

Finally, please can we take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of you for your support so far.

We have had a great start to the term!