



# Marsh Hill Nursery School

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## NEWSLETTER - 2/2026

What a fantastic first half of the Spring term we have had. The children have been full of ideas as we develop our topic and explore their interests. It's hard to believe that we are already at the half-way point in the academic year!

### Important dates for your diary

**Half-term** Monday 16th February until Friday 20th February

Playhouse Theatre Visits Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March

**World Book Day**—5th March. Further details to come.

**Parents' Workshop**—Maths—Wednesday 11th March

**Easter Bonnet Parade**—Wednesday 25th March

**Break up** Friday 27th March.



### Friendly Reminder: Punctuality

We kindly remind parents and carers of the importance of dropping children off on time each day (doors open at 8.40am and shut at 8.50am). Arriving on time helps children settle more easily, take part fully in planned group sessions, and begin their day calmly alongside their friends. It also supports our staff in maintaining routines and ensuring a smooth start for everyone. We understand that mornings can be busy, and we really appreciate your continued support and cooperation. If you are experiencing ongoing difficulties with arrival times, please speak to a member of the nursery team. We are always happy to help where we can.



The deadline for choosing a Reception school place has now passed, (15th January 2026). If you have not yet submitted your application, please talk to us straight away about

making a late submission. If you need support or have questions about the application process, please speak to a member of our admin team, who will be happy to help. Once you have been informed of the outcome (16.4.2026), please let us know where they have been allocated. Thank you.

### **Please ensure that you label all of your child's belongings**

that come into nursery inc. coats, clothes, bags, lunch boxes. Thank you. Also, please ensure your child doesn't bring any toys in from home, wherever possible, due to possible loss or damage and for safety reasons. Thank you

## Welcome

You may be aware that Mr Dean Nolan, Acting Headteacher, has moved on to pastures new and we thank him for his endeavours whilst with us and wish him all the best for the future.

We are therefore delighted to welcome, Mr David Aldworth, our new Acting Headteacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

We are not currently accepting school fund donations whilst we change bank account. Thank you



## Pushchairs/ Buggies

We appreciate that many of you travel some distances to us when dropping off and collecting your children and whilst we wait for the weather to also improve, we would ask that you consider walking to Nursery each day, wherever possible. We only have a limited holding area and it is becoming quite full on a regular basis.

All children will benefit from the daily walk and it gives a wonderful opportunity for discussion their day and all the new things they are learning, as well as helping them with achieving their daily steps! Thank you for your continued support and consideration with this.

## Maths Parent/ Carer Workshop

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to attend our upcoming Maths Training Workshop, designed to support you as your child begins this important stage of development. The workshop will offer practical advice and guidance on when and how to start maths training, recognising signs that your child is ready, and how to support them with confidence and consistency at home and in the nursery setting. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and share experiences in a relaxed and supportive environment.

**Wednesday 11th March at:**

**Ladybirds: 8.40am -10.00am**

**& 10:15am-11:30am**

**Ladybirds & Butterflies:**

**12:30pm -1:45pm & 2:00pm—3:20pm**

## Parking

**We have received several complaints from neighbours and parents about inconsiderate parking on the roads and pavements around Nursery.**

**Please always park legally and considerately. Dangerous parking presents a huge risk to children.**

**We have a duty to report dangerous parking to the local Police in order to ensure child and community safety.**

**Thank you for in anticipation of your support and cooperation.**

**OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

## Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child’s behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”



“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right! ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

\* Domestic Abuse Act 2021

## Curriculum

### This half-term we have been focussing on:

#### Winter, Keeping Healthy & Cooking

**Books:** Which Food Will You Choose, Handa's Surprise & Kitchen Disco

Through our learning about the season of winter we have been observing the seasonal changes and describing what is happening. We have explored ice and what happens to water when it freezes and when it melts. We have also been learning what we need to wear when we're playing outside and how to keep warm. **We have been learning more about the importance of keeping healthy by eating the right foods, keeping hydrated, getting enough sleep, exercising regularly and controlling our screen time. We have also learnt about dental hygiene and how to keep our teeth healthy.** Through our cooking topic we will have been developing our gross and fine motor skills while using different utensils for cutting, mixing, stirring, mashing, sieving and pouring.

We are looking forward to introducing you to our new long-term curriculum document after the half-term break!

**We are an  
Operation Encompass School**



For further information please come and see us





"Every child has the right to be safe"

### Tapestry

We use Tapestry, an online learning journal platform, to record children's learning and development through some photos and written observations. As outlined in the EYFS Statutory Framework, we spend the majority of time interacting with children, rather than recording observations on an iPad and uploading onto Tapestry. Our educators build up a detailed knowledge of each child through their daily interactions—there is no requirement for us to keep written records. You are more than welcome to share photos, videos and observations yourself via this method. We will be sharing videos of the book of the week and ideas for home via Tapestry instead.



*Our attendance values are:*

## **BELONGING - CONNECTEDNESS - CURIOSITY**

### Key messages...

Good attendance is everybody's responsibility.

We all have a part to play:

Governing Body - Head Teacher -  
Attendance Lead - Office Staff -  
Nursery Practitioners - Parents

Attendance culture aim: for children and parents/ carers to feel seen, heard and understood, creating a sense of belonging.

Regular and punctual school attendance is important.

### We'd like you to know...

*Every child has the right to an education (UNICEF Article 28)*

Schools have a duty to ensure children on our roll are safe and well. When a child does not attend their allocated session, schools must know why not.

**HIGH LEVELS OF ATTENDANCE =  
IMPROVED ATTAINMENT AND  
OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN**

We do not fine parents for absences/ missed sessions as children in our nursery schools are non-statutory school age. We help families to get used to good attendance habits in readiness for school!

Good attendance benefits a child because:

- They can build friendships well
- They have routine and structure which supports emotional well-being
- They build strong relationships with adults
- They can access their learning entitlement regularly
- They learn boundaries and social norms
- They become better ready for school

If you/your child are finding it difficult to attend nursery regularly, we want to work with you to provide support and reassurance.

If your child has not attended nursery, we will call you to find out why. We have a responsibility to do this.

You can help us by calling us on the first day of your child's absence.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

### **We Take Safeguarding Seriously**

#### **Safeguarding is of the Utmost Importance to Us**

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children and expects our staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Under procedures laid down by the Education Authority, the Head Teacher is responsible for child protection and has a legal obligation to take appropriate action where non-accidental injury or abuse of any kind is suspected. It is the duty of every adult coming into contact with the children to refer any concerns regarding a child's welfare to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). Our Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

- Lead DSL: D. Aldworth
- Deputy DSLs: J. Barker, M. Irabor, A. Rogerson, J. Lothian and J. Bailey
- If you have any concerns that a child has been harmed, is at risk of harm, or you receive a disclosure, please contact main reception as soon as possible and ask to speak to a designated person named above. Our first priority is your child's welfare and therefore there may be occasions when our concern about your child means that we must consult other agencies even before we contact you. The procedures we follow have been laid down by the Birmingham Safeguarding Children Board. The school may disclose your child's personal data to statutory bodies where we consider it necessary within the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

A copy of our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (January 2026) is available on our website: [Marsh Hill Nursery School - Home](#)

**If anything concerns you or worries you, please report it to us immediately on (0121) 360 2199**

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.**

eSafety is constantly in the news and of growing importance to us all. You may find these websites helpful in supporting your child when using the internet.

[www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents)

#### **MOBILE PHONES**

Our Child Protection/ Safeguarding Policy and e-Safety policies stipulate that mobile phones and wearable technology (smart watches, bodycams etc) are not allowed in nursery. This applies to staff, visitors and parents/carers. **Please do not use these.**