



SCHOOL NEWS



This week we have been using our skills of following instructions to make various treats and concoctions from shortbread and playdough to mud cakes and flower tea. There have been many recipes in our pretend/symbolic play areas, play dough table and snack table. We have learnt why it is important to carefully follow instructions and explored how to measure ingredients, pour and mix to make the final product. We have a number of budding chefs in the school!

MESSAGE FROM FEDERATION LEADERS - AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR

We understand that we are living through difficult times. The cost of living crisis is impacting on many aspects of life and people are struggling financially. There are unprecedented waiting times for medical appointments/procedures/consultations resulting in people being in prolonged pain and being frustrated with services. Many of our staff team are facing these same issues. We understand that this is making people angry. We believe this is the reason that, across the schools in our Federation, staff are facing unprecedented levels of anger and aggression from parents. We do not always get things right and we will always listen to your opinions and ideas for improvement. However, we will not allow our staff to be subjected to aggressive or intimidating behaviour. We have in place a 'Managing Aggressive Adults' policy.' This has clear procedures that we will follow to ensure that our staff can work safely and without fear.

Thanks to the vast majority of you who are reasonable and respectful in your communication.

FEDERATION IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY

Our Federation Improvement Priority (FIP) this term is:

"To ensure that children learn to consolidate and develop taught skills beyond adult led sessions."

In preparation for making the grab bags for Mother's day children have taken part in cooking activities this week. They have learnt the following skills: reading a recipe, measuring, pouring, mixing and discussing changes that happen when a mixture is cooked.

How to help at home

Could you follow a simple recipe with your child? Cooking/baking offers such a wealth of learning opportunities. Could you make time to follow a recipe and make some cakes/a fruit salad etc.

Your child should now be an expert at chopping, mixing, using tools! Let us know how you get on!

SIGN OF THE WEEK

At the Nursery we teach all children to sign. This supports communication and ensures the communication of all children is valued. Ask any staff member to show you if you are unsure.

Sign of the week: Look



Look

INFORMATION

RECENT STRIKE ACTION

All schools in the Federation have been impacted by strike action. We know that this has been disruptive and challenging for many of you. As educators it is a very difficult decision to take part in action that will result in closure or partial closure. We felt that it was important to share with you why some staff chose to strike and why we, as leaders, are so incredibly concerned about the current situation in education.

- trainee teacher numbers fell 23% in 2022
- one in four teachers leaves within 3 years of qualification
- special needs support assistants are leaving for jobs with higher pay, fewer hours and less stress
- teacher's pay has fallen by 23% in real terms since 2010
- the government announcement to raise teachers starting salaries and give a one off payment to support staff last year sounded very generous-however, no additional money came into schools to fund this. The already tight school budget had to fund this unaccounted for cost.

The implications for us at Oxhey are the following:

- staff are weighing up whether they can financially afford to remain in the job they love and leaving early years education for different careers
- children with special educational needs are not receiving swift enough diagnosis, appointments and funding for roles. We now rarely get more than 1.
- very few trained staff are in the recruitment field if we required staff in the near future. We used to get in excess of 10 applicants for every advertised role. We now get very few, if any, applicants and are becoming more reliant on agency staff.

Yesterday we watched the budget announcements on childcare reform. We look forward to seeing the government strategy for implementing the recruitment drive required to meet their plan to offer funded childcare to an extra million families by 2025.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We hope you took one of the takeaway breakfast bags. Wishing all our Mums, Aunts, Grans, Nans, Godmothers and Female carers a wonderful Sunday!



DATES COMING UP:

- Mothers Day: Sunday 19th March
- Last day of term; Friday 31st March
- Easter Holiday: Monday 3rd April - Friday 14th April
- Inset Day: Monday 17th April - Training day for ALL staff
- ALL Children return Tuesday 18th April

