

# Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery School

## Spring 2025 Newsletter



## FREE Full and Part Time Places

Spread the word to friends and family, we have **FREE Full and Part Time Places** available for September for

All children 9 months and over

You can pick up a registration form from the front office or call 0121 675 3065 for more information.

## Ofsted

Since our last newsletter, we have had an Ofsted inspection. This took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December. We were delighted with the outcome which was that we had “taken effective action to maintain the standards identified at the previous inspection.” Our previous graded inspection was outstanding.

If you have yet to read the report, it can be found by following this link:

<https://shenleyfields.sch.life/Page/Detail/recent-letters>

## Nature Education Grant



We have made a successful bid for the Nature Park Grant.

“The National Education Nature Park has made available a £15 million fund from the Department for Education which is administered by the Royal Horticultural Society. The grant is aimed at helping children and young people connect with nature through their education setting, such as a school, nursery or college.” (DfE)

We have been awarded a grant of £10,000 in order to achieve the following:

### Aims:

- Biodiversity gain across the educational estate
- Development of green skills
- Young people exhibit pro-environmental behaviours

- Improved well-being for young people

**Objectives:**

- Involve young people in the funded project
- Increase biodiversity
- Make sustainable changes on the educational estate
- Increase young people’s green skills

We will seek to achieve these through the following:

- Further enhance our outdoor environment and in particular, gardening as one of our areas of continuous provision.
- We will focus on sustainability by growing more of our own fruit and vegetables which we will continue to use for cooking and healthy snacks.
- We will extend this to growing fruit and vegetables at the front of the building as a “community allotment”.

You will have noticed some big changes to the space in front of the school building. We have planted a willow fence, put a living roof on the shed, added planters and planted trees to increase the number of birds and other wildlife to the school site.

We are hoping that over time, as our fruit and vegetable plants become established, families will be able to take produce home which will contribute to the children’s five a day.

The children will play an active role in planning for and nurturing this space. We will also be seeking support from families to come and join us in developing and caring for this space. Please share any ideas you have for this project with us.

**WE ARE A UNICEF GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL**

**Children’s rights are learned, understood and lived in this school.**

Icons: lightbulb, globe, megaphone, hands holding a person, pencil, open book, first aid kit, baby.

UNICEF UNITED KINGDOM GOLD RIGHTS RESPECTING

We are very proud to be a Gold Rights Respecting School. We were first awarded gold status in January 2021 and maintained gold at our reaccreditation in January 2024.

This year the children are taking part in the UNICEF “OutRight Campaign”. **OutRight 2024/2025** – is a learning journey that will deepen children’s understanding of the UNCRC, democracy and global citizenship, whilst empowering them to use their voices and become **change makers!**

This year, OutRight will develop children’s knowledge of:

- **Children’s rights and the UNCRC.**
- **The different mechanisms for using their voice and making change (including democracy and global citizenship).**

- **How to use their voices, calling on decision-makers to act on the children’s rights issues that children themselves see as the most important.**

The children and staff at Shenley Fields are campaigning regarding road safety by our nursery school. We have real concerns regarding some parents driving up the slip road next to our school and parking too near to school or in areas that put children in danger. We used the children’s comments and drawings to make this banner which is positioned on the slip road.



Here are some of their other comments:

- “We have made a stop poster”.
- “Cars drive fast and it’s not ok”.
- “Stop! You are not allowed up the slip road, It’s dangerous”.
- “Stop parking by our school. Park by the shops and walk”.



We are delighted to be taking part in this competition again this year. The focus for the wheelbarrows this year is food and climate change. We have decided to replicate the fruit, vegetables and flowers that will be growing in our community allotment in our wheelbarrow to encourage:

- Healthy eating
- Reducing waste as you only harvest the food you are going to eat
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Reduced food costs when the cost of living is so high
- Insect pollination which is essential for food production and can improve yield and quality

We will keep you updated with the development of our wheelbarrow.

Did you know that we use Tapestry to share lots of information with you about our curriculum and the learning opportunities and experiences on offer to your child?

This includes:

- Our planning for each area of continuous provision both indoors and outdoors.
- Observations and photos of the activities detailed in our planning in action.
- The core book we are focusing on, including the key vocabulary we will be teaching.
- The song/rhyme we are focusing on from our Shenley Rhyme Time and how these enhance our planning for phonics and maths.
- Our Makaton sign/s of the week
- Our rights respecting focus
- For children in Sunbeams (3-4's), we also include Early Years Picture News and Concept Cat, both of which include home learning opportunities.

Please activate your Tapestry account and log in to have a look. You can also add photos and share information about things you have done at home together.

If you have any difficulty activating your account or logging in, please let us know and we will problem solve to enable you to access your child's Tapestry journal.

## Library

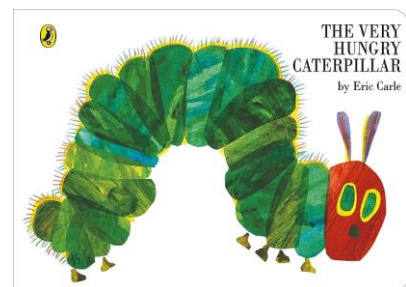
Have you been to visit our library yet?

It is a lovely space to spend time with your child, with a great range of books to share and enjoy together. Every child has their own book bag to take the book they have chosen home.

Our school library will be open every day from 8am-9.30am.

You can use the library to share books with your child or just choose one to take home and enjoy together.

Your child can change their library book as frequently as they would like to. Just bring your book back and choose a new one.



# Attendance

“Being in school is important to your child’s achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results.” (DfE)

To recognise and celebrate good attendance, each half term, we will give attendance certificates to every child who has at least 90% attendance (appointments for children with medical needs and SEND will not impact on this.)



We would love to give as many of these out as possible each half term.

## Dates for Your Diary



**You are invited to attend our Parent’s Makaton Taster session at Shenley Fields**

**Date:** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March

**Time:** 9.30-11.00 am

Kerrie a qualified Makaton trainer from Pupil and School Support (PSS) will be showing you some useful signs to support your child’s communication skills at home.

Parents, carers, grandparents or (adult) siblings are welcome!

(Maximum 2 family members per child.)

If you would like to attend, please write your name on the sign-up sheet at the top office.

**Places are limited, so please sign up soon!**

(This session is for adults only)

**Refreshments will be provided!**



### What is Makaton?

- ❖ Makaton uses signs and symbols to help people communicate. It is designed to support the development of spoken language. Using signs can help children who are non-verbal (either because they have communication difficulties or because they are little babies/toddlers) by promoting their communication development.
- ❖ Many children’s understanding develops ahead of their spoken language. Signing can help little children express themselves during this time and prevent or alleviate their frustrations caused by their current inability to communicate.

**Countdown to  
World Down Syndrome Day**  
18<sup>th</sup> March 21<sup>st</sup> March

**We are taking part in the Sunflower Challenge for Down Syndrome UK**

During the week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> March, we are planting sunflower seeds and watching them change and grow over the next few weeks.

**Each child, just like our sunflowers, grows and blooms in different ways.**

During the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> March, we can take our sunflowers home as a gift for someone special.

Scan to donate

**DSUK**  
Down Syndrome UK  
www.downsyndromeuk.co.uk  
Registered charity number: 1080541

Photo: © Sheryl Down Syndrome UK

# Lots of socks



21 march World Down Syndrome Day

**Come to nursery wearing your silliest socks on:**

- **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

- **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

**Our children will be learning about how we ensure that all children have a right to be included.**

Being properly included means being treated fairly and having the same opportunities as everyone else, being supported to make our own choices, and being involved at all levels.



## Early Reading Workshops:

We will be offering early reading workshops from 9.15 – 10.15 every morning from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to attend a workshop with your child, please sign up for a space at reception. If you have any questions, please ask Kate Bowler (Teacher)



## Family Forest School Trips:



**Shenley Fields Daycare and Nursery School**  
Forest school trips to Ley Hill Park for all the family

In response to the feedback from parents we have planned more forest school sessions for this academic year. These sessions are for you and your children to join in with. The sessions will take place at **Ley Hill Park** with our forest school leaders.

Our visits will take place on: **Monday 7th, Tuesday 8th, Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th April 2025**. These sessions will start at **9.30am** and finish at **10.30am**. Our forest school leaders will meet you at the play area. Your child must be accompanied by an adult and will remain your responsibility throughout the visit.

Shenley Fields will provide a healthy snack and forest school tools and equipment.

If you would like to attend a forest school session with your child please ask at reception to book a place.

For further information please speak to **Sally or Lynsey (Raindrops Provision)**



## Easter Break:

The Easter holiday is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. All of our provisions are closed during these two weeks. We will be running our holiday club from Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. Booking forms are available from reception. Places are offered on a first come first served basis.

# Please Remember.....

Please can we ask that you do not bring the foods containing the following to nursery:



Nuts



Eggs

There are children at nursery who could become very poorly if they come into contact with these foods. Thank you.

**Labelling your Child's Belongings** - Please name your child's belongings - especially coats, bags and lunch boxes. We have lots of coats and bags that are the same.

**Spare Clothes** - Can you please send your child to nursery with a set of spare clothes in their bag and return any borrowed items as soon as possible.

## Collection Timings:

Your child's day at nursery starts at 9am. Please make sure they are on time to enable them to make the very most of their day with us. If you arrive later than 9.10, you will need to take your child to our main reception.

Collection time is 3pm. If you have any circumstances which make this collection time difficult, then please discuss this with us.

Wednesdays are the only exception to this:

If your child's place is the beginning of the week, drop off is at 9am and collection at 12 midday.

If your child's place is at the end of the week, drop off is at 12.15 and collection at 3.15pm.

Drop off and collections outside of these times is hugely disruptive and impacts on the experiences on offer to the children.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.