



Batford Nursery School
& Day Care

Batford Nursery School Newsletter - July 2022



As we reach the end of the year we look back and reflect on a busy and exciting time for the children. They have had the opportunity to engage in a wide range of learning experiences delivered by a dedicated and committed team providing a rich and exciting learning curriculum. Although it has been challenging at times with the ever changing Covid picture, the team are super proud of all the children and have loved seeing them blossom and grow and progress well with their learning and development.

We would like to extend to all our children moving on to Primary School our best wishes as they take their next step along their educational journey. Meanwhile, we look forward to welcoming back our existing and new families in September. We hope you have a lovely summer and I am sure you feel like I do, that it will be lovely to be able to enjoy time with family and friends. Stay safe and well.

Best wishes,
Sarah Hedges
Headteacher

Themes & Events we have enjoyed this Year

- **Autumn** - The children explored changes in the garden. They collected natural resources to create various artworks.
- **Harvest** - The children learnt about harvest, looked at posters/books and found out where food comes from. We talked to the children about bringing in donations for our harvest display and what happens to the food.
- **Winter** - The children enjoyed going on winter walks around the grounds, learning more about seasonal changes.
- **Road Safety** - We learnt how to keep safe whilst crossing the road. We made some signs for the children to role play Road Safety in the playground.
- **Diwali** - The children learnt about Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita. They enjoyed creating and decorating their own diya lights and making Rangoli patterns with shapes.
- **Storytelling** - We have been using "Tales Toolkit" to encourage the language of storytelling to include characters, settings, problems and solutions. This was particularly fun with the traditional Christmas Story.



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- **Christmas:** Celebrations started with postal deliveries of Christmas cards from the children to their friends. Santa's workshop arrived in the home corner, giving children the opportunity to dress up in Christmas themed costumes and wrap presents. It was lovely watching them at play, problem solve and learn about shape and size. Thank you to all those who brought in Christmas Present Hampers. The children learnt about giving - not just receiving - presents: they loved helping deliver the presents to the Foodbank van.
- **People who help us** - The children explored this theme and it was lovely to have special guest speakers talking to the children about what they do and how they help people. Thank you to parents and family members that were able to come in to talk to the children.
- **Chinese New Year** - The children enjoyed using resources to find out about Chinese New Year and how it is celebrated.



- **Forest School** - This year we have been very lucky to have Sarah, a volunteer, to work with the Forest School Leader, to plan and deliver the exciting programme. This included using a range of tools, making journey sticks and stick men, as well as using natural resources to work together to build shelters and create habitats for mini beasts. A highlight for the children is always the fire pit and hot chocolate!
- **Snow & Ice** - The weather gave us the opportunity to learn about changes in the environment. We had a fascinating impromptu session on snow, frost and ice where children observed changes in the garden, exploring scientific language and making predictions about what might happen.
- **Birds** - The children and staff really enjoyed participating in the RSPB "Big Garden Birdwatch". In school, we created a bird hide which some of the children enjoyed: they used binoculars to view the birds in the forest school garden. The Nite Owls visit is always a firm favourite, with the owls demonstrating to the children how they live and fly.



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- **Buildings** - The children have looked at images of different buildings and have used the builders' role play construction area to build and create structures.
- **Values** - Children talked about our Batford Owl values and what these mean.
- **Mini Beasts** - The children really enjoyed finding out facts about insects and mini beasts. In the garden they observed snails, ladybirds, ants, beetles, millipedes, centipedes, slowworms and spiders. A highlight was watching the caterpillar larvae transform into butterflies which were released into the nursery garden. We also had some frogspawn in the nursery pond. The children were very interested in observing the changes in the life cycle of a frog.
- **Mini Professors** - Following National Science week, a highlight of the year was when Professor Tash came to visit. The children engaged in a number of different science-themed activities. These included a balloon, a coin and an exploding Mentos experiment, the children had a fantastic time and learned so much from their day.
- **Easter Bonnet/Hat Activities** - The children enjoyed coming to school in decorated Easter-themed hats and engaged in Easter activities, including making an Easter nest and going on an Easter egg hunt in the garden. The Easter Bonnet Parade was brought indoors due to the adverse weather conditions, as we didn't want to spoil the bonnets!
- **Farm Animals** - Ark Farm brought the sunshine to Batford Nursery! The children thoroughly enjoyed their day with the animals and the animals thoroughly enjoyed being petted by the children.
- **Spring & Summer** - The children observed blossom in the environment and used a wide variety of materials including paint, collage and natural resources to create blossom pictures.
- **Transitions** - During this last half term we have been busy preparing the children for their transition to primary school. We have had phone consultations or visits with most primary school teachers to discuss the children and pass on valuable information to ensure a smooth transition. Via Tapestry we have been showing children information about their new schools.





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- **Yoga** - Thank you to Jean for keeping the children active during her yoga sessions - there is always a lot of fun and laughter in the hall when yoga sessions are in full flow.

Sprogg Sports Football Day - The lovely Zak came to nursery and taught the children fun

- **Sponsored Circuit** - The children completed their circuits in the garden, in their groups. They especially enjoyed engaging in the physical activities and collecting their stickers and of course their podium medal presentation. Thank you for all those who have donated sponsorship monies. We have so far raised £1784.45 - if there are any further sponsor monies to be transferred, we would be very grateful if you could do this by the end of July.
- **Individual photos** - Ian Scott Photography visited the children and we hope you agree he captured the children beautifully. They had a lovely day showing Ian their very best smiles!! <https://www.ianscottphotography.co.uk/>
- **Elliswick tennis Session** - Dan came and taught the children how to play tennis with fun games and skills. They were inspired and are still opting to play tennis in the playground! Do we have a future Norrie or Raducanu in our midst? ... Watch this space!
- **Eid** - The children who celebrated Eid shared with their friends and staff all the activities and celebrations they have been participating in.
- **Family Picnic** - Unfortunately, due to the extreme heat, we quickly transformed the picnic into a stay and play session. It was lovely to welcome parents into the nursery and for your children to be able to show you where they have been all year and all the activities they have been engaged with!





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Thank Yous

- We would like to say a huge thank you to all our children. We know that those leaving us are going to continue to enjoy the next stage of their school life.
- We would like to say another huge thank you to parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year.
- Thank you to all parents/carers who have expressed their appreciation to staff and those who have made delicious food and cakes.
- Thank you to those parents who have made generous donations to the school; these will be used to benefit the children in the setting.
- Thank you to the Batford Governing Body - for all their continued support and volunteered time throughout the year.
- Thank you to all the staff for your continued hard work, energy and enthusiasm in working with our young children and families.
- We would like to take this opportunity to say a fond farewell and thank you to Mary, who has been the Yellow Group Key worker - Mary has been with us for a short while but has made a great impact working with children and families during their time at Batford Nursery School.
- Thank you to our volunteers, the two Sarahs! We wish Sarah R all the best as she progresses in her studying and look forward to welcoming back Sarah C in the Autumn
- We would also like give Katie Coxon our Business Manager our best wishes as she steps down from this position. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for her dedication and commitment to the school. She will be greatly missed as she has had a great impact on the school. We are sure she will be involved in the nursery in some capacity in the future.

Welcomes

- We are delighted that Sue M, who has previously worked in the nursery, joined us this term to support children in the setting.
- We are excited to welcome two new members of staff in September: Pippa, who will be taking on the role of School Business Manager; and Kate, who will be working one day a week solely as a Forest School Leader.

September 2022 Admissions & Virtual Tour for New Parents

If you know someone whose child turns 3 by 31st August 2022 please let them know we still have a number of places. Please ask them to look at the Virtual Tour on our website at <https://www.batfordnursery.herts.sch.uk/> and contact admissions@batfordnursery.herts.sch.uk or telephone 01582 713872 for further information or to complete an application.



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Reminder

- First Day of Autumn Term - For those children who are returning to Batford Nursery School, unless you have been told otherwise: Friday 2nd September 2022.



Happy Summer Holidays!!