

## School News

We are pleased to report that over the weekend all of the ducklings hatched. This week the children have been caring for them including putting them in water for the first time, ensuring they have fresh food and water and that their bedding is clean. We will be sad to see them go but they will be going back to the farm. We hope that you enjoyed your MADGE day breakfast bag's this morning. We are sure the children will be delighted to share with you the skills that they have used in preparing the bags. We are looking forward to Heath Lane's Book Week next week.



## Message from Federation Headteachers

We have recently attended a briefing on the worrying rise of cases of measles. Measles cases in the UK have been rising since November 2023. While Hertfordshire has seen few cases so far, we are close to London and other areas where there has been a large rise in cases. The UK Health Security Agency has declared the increase in cases of measles a national incident. There is the potential for cases and outbreaks in Hertfordshire as uptake of the Measles Vaccination (MMR) in the county is lower than recommended. We would urge you to read the letter sent out with this newsletter so that you are fully aware of symptoms and where further advice can be found.

## Curriculum - Why we do what we do - Play Dough

### What we do at school

The play dough area is a popular area of the Nursery School. At some point all of our children experience making the dough as a group! Making play dough involves following instructions in sequence, measuring, and estimating ingredients then pouring, mixing and kneading. Think of all the learning in that! Play dough engages a range of children's senses including touch and smell. Playing with the dough helps children to explore different textures, temperatures, and consistencies. Manipulating the dough by squishing, rolling, patting and squeezing, develops fine motor control and hand strength. This is crucial for later tasks such as holding a pen, doing up buttons, using tools etc... Sharing dough encourages children to take turns and collaborate and work together. These social interactions help our children to develop empathy, cooperation, and conflict resolution skills. We love using play dough!



### What you can do at home

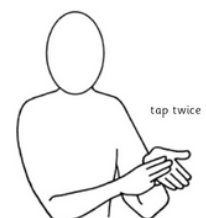
- We will send home the dough making recipe – why not have a go at home! This offers valuable learning alongside an inexpensive resource that can be used for hours!

## 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.

This week's sign is: "Mummy"

Ask any staff member to show you if you are unsure.



Mother/Mum

# Reminders / Information

## HEATH LANE BOOK WEEK

All children will have hopefully received their book from us along with their World Book Day token. There is an information sheet with each book to assist with sharing and exploring the story with your child. We hope that you enjoy.



Thank you to all of the volunteers who will be coming into Nursery next week to read with the children. If you are interested in volunteering to come in and read it is not too late, please email [admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@heathlane.herts.sch.uk).

## BOOK SWAP

Next Friday we will be having a book swap event. Please feel free to bring a book in next Friday that your child would like to swap for another book. Parents/Carers, please feel free to bring in a book to swap too.

The book swap table will be outside the Nursery gate at both drop off and collection.

## LOST PROPERTY

We have accumulated a number of items which we do not know who they belong to. These will be displayed outside the Nursery next week and feel free to reclaim any items which belong to you.

Reminder - please ensure that your child/ren's clothing and other items are clearly labelled as this helps when items go missing.

## DATES COMING UP:

- Heath Lane Book Week - week beginning 11th March 2024
- Nursery Closed for Easter Holidays - 29th March to 16th April 2024

