

LEARNER NEWS

November 2025 Edition

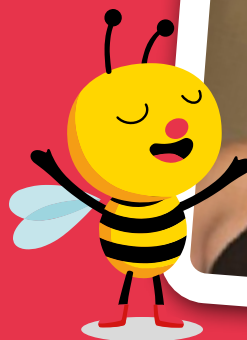
Hello, welcome to the November edition of our learner newsletter.

In this issue

The importance of British Values

Safer Eating Requirements

Celebrating your Success



Congratulations Emily!
Functional Skills Success

British Values

On 2 October 2025 a terrorist attack struck the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Crumpsall, Manchester, during Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

The attacker, drove a car into pedestrians, exited the vehicle, and began stabbing worshippers near the synagogue gates. Worshippers tried to resist entry as the attacker attempted to force his way inside, wearing what appeared to be a suicide vest. Two worshipers were killed in the incident, and several others were injured. Armed police arrived rapidly and shot the attacker dead.

The attack has been declared as a terrorist incident.

Our thoughts remain with the families and those affected by this terrible event.

Emotional impact

Violent events like this can create fear, trauma, or anxiety for individuals and communities. If you feel that you need any support following these events, please speak with your Development Coach who can signpost to relevant support or check out the useful contacts in the Health and Wellbeing section of this newsletter.



Rise in Terrorist related activity.

Sadly, these stories are becoming all too common. It is important to remain vigilant and follow security procedures where needed.

Many venues and communities are reviewing security protocols, training volunteers, improving surveillance, and coordinating with police.

Creating safe spaces

- Stay informed and verify facts
- Speak responsibly - avoid spreading unverified rumours or hateful content, especially on social media.
- Promote British Values - Encourage conversations about tolerance, inclusion, and mutual respect.
- Look out for signs of distress. Offer support, signpost mental health resources.
- Look out for changes in behaviours and report any concerns.



Would you know what to do?

For more information see [here](#)



As part of the PREVENT strategy we at Busy Bees Education and Training promote British Values to reflect life modern Britain.

The 4 fundamental British Values are:

Democracy

Rule of Law

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Individual Liberty

Fundamental British Values are a set of values the government believe are important for us all to learn. They also underpin what it is to be a citizen in a modern and diverse Great Britain, valuing our communities and celebrating the diversity of the UK.

Fundamental British Values are not exclusive to being British and are shared by other democratic countries. British Values are a way to create a society where individual members can feel safe and valued.

We will look in further detail at each of the Fundamental British Values.

For more information on British Values, take a look at the Educate Against Hate YouTube Channel. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUg8ue5_vvA



Martyn's Law (Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025)

Martyn's Law was passed on 3 April 2025 and is named in memory of Martyn Hett, a victim of the 2017 Manchester Arena terrorist attack. The law was introduced following a campaign led by Martyn's mother to improve safety and preparedness at public venues to respond to terrorist attacks.

The act provides a legal framework to protect the public from terrorism by requiring certain premises to:

- Assess and plan for terror attack scenarios,
- Implement proportionate security measures based on size and type,
- Work with a new regulator for compliance and support.



Focus on Theory: Lev Vygotsky 1896-1934

Vygotsky developed the Sociocultural Theory of Cognitive Development. He believed that children's cognitive development emerges as a result of social interaction with others, including peers and adults.

Sociocultural Theory

Vygotsky discussed the importance of social interaction and argued that children's development is primarily influenced by their social environment and others around them. He believed that children learn best when they are engaged in meaningful conversations, play, and activities with others and saw language as a powerful tool for thinking and learning.

Zone of Proximal Development

The Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) describes the between what a child can do independently and what they can do when they have support from a more knowledgeable other - this could be another child or an adult.

Scaffolding

A step-by-step process where tasks are broken down into small, manageable tasks. The support and guidance provided is gradually reduced until the child is capable and confident in completing the task independently.



**Vygotsky's
ideas have
taught us:**

Children learn best with the right support—not too much, not too little.

Social interaction plays a key role in helping children reach their full potential.

Functional Skills and Teaching Sessions

Functional Skills and Teaching session calendars

Please take a look at the Functional Skills and Teaching session calendars to select the sessions you would like to attend. Remember to contact your development coach to ask to be booked onto these.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	10.00-11.00 = The reflective Practitioner	10.00-11.00 = Safeguarding 9.30-10.30= Introduction to leading within an Early Years setting 9.30-10.30 = OTJ support session	9.30-11.00 = Working in partnership with others 1.30-2.30 EPA support session EYP 2	6	9.30-11.30 = Health and Safety	8
9		10	11	12	13	14
			9.30-11.00 = Development, Assessment, play and pedagogy	10.00-11.00 = Using technology in Early Years 11.30-2.30 = EPA support session (April 2024)	1.30-2.30 = EPA support session EYLP 5	15
16		17	18	19	20	21
		9.30-11.00 = Equality, diversity and Inclusion				22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		9.30-11.30 = health and safety	9.30-11.00 = Development, Assessment, play and pedagogy 14.00-16.00 = Safeguarding 9.30-11.30 =Working in partnership with others	9.00-10.30 = Health, wellbeing and Resilience		
30						

Functional Skills Sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	04/11/2025	04/11/2025	05/11/2025	06/11/2025	07/11/2025
10:05 - 11:45	Maths: Units & Measures (1)	English Reading: Purpose, Language, Facts & Opinions		Maths: BIDMAS (1)	
12:00 - 13:30					
13:45 - 15:15					
15:00 - 20:30			English Writing: Sentence, Paragraphs & Planning		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	10/11/2025	11/11/2025	12/11/2025	13/11/2025	14/11/2025
10:05 - 11:45	Maths: Probability (2)	English Writing: Grammar & Punctuation	Maths: Percentages (2)	Maths: Fractions (2)	Maths: Interest (2)
12:00 - 13:30	English Reading: Comparing Texts & Bias				Maths: Graphs & Tables (2)
13:45 - 15:15		Maths: Shapes (Perimeter, Area & Volume) (2)	English Reading: Writing Styles & Organisational Features	Maths: Non Calculator (2)	
15:00 - 20:30	English Writing: Formatting Texts		Maths: Decimals (2)		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	17/11/2025	18/11/2025	19/11/2025	20/11/2025	21/11/2025
10:05 - 11:45	English Reading: Writing Styles & Organisational Features	Maths: Nets & Elevations (3)	Maths: Angles & Bearings (3)	English Reading: Purpose, Language, Facts & Opinions	Maths: Percentages (3)
12:00 - 13:30		English Writing: Sentence, Paragraphs & Planning			Maths: Ratio & Scale (3)
13:45 - 15:15	Maths: Fractions (3)		English Writing: Formatting Texts	Maths: Units & Measures (3)	
15:00 - 20:30	Maths: Shapes (Perimeter, Area & Volume) (3)		English Reading: Comparing Texts & Bias		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	24/11/2025	25/11/2025	26/11/2025	27/11/2025	28/11/2025
10:05 - 11:45	Maths: BIDMAS (4)	Maths: Angles & Bearings (4)	Maths: Graphs & Tables (4)	Maths: Non Calculator (4)	Maths: Nets & Elevations (4)
12:00 - 13:30	Maths: Percentages (4)		English Reading: Writing Styles & Organisational Features		Maths: Averages & Range (4)
13:45 - 15:15		Maths: Interest (4)		Maths: Decimals (4)	
15:00 - 20:30	English Writing: Grammar & Punctuation		Maths: Probability (4)		



Safer Eating Requirements

The EYFS places a statutory duty on all providers to ensure that mealtimes are managed safely, with Safer Eating, being one of the safeguarding and welfare requirements.

During mealtimes we must ensure:

Supervision and environment

- A member of staff with a valid paediatric first aid certificate must be present during all mealtimes.
- Children must be seated safely and never left alone while eating.
- Staff should be able to clearly see all children's faces to effectively supervise for choking signs.
- Settings must provide a calm and supportive mealtime environment, ensuring children are not rushed.

Food preparation and hygiene

- Food should be prepared in a manner to avoid choking hazards, ensuring food is cut into safe sizes
- Cook food thoroughly and then cooled sufficiently for infants and young children.
- Maintain hygiene, including cleaning food preparation and serving areas and wash hands before and after eating and serving food.
- Store food safely



Dietary and health needs

- Gather comprehensive information on each child's dietary requirements, allergies, and intolerances before their first day.
- Share this information with all relevant staff members.
- Collaborate with parents and healthcare professionals on weaning and managing dietary needs.
- Ensure food allergies are managed carefully to prevent cross-contamination.

Find further food safety advice here:

<https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/food-safety>

Looking to plan ahead and add a twist to your holiday meal? Try these nutritious and delicious Christmas dinner ideas:

<https://www.birtheatlove.com/healthy-christmas-dinner-recipes/>



The Power of Punctuation



When you're working in a nursery, you might think punctuation is just something teachers worry about – but it's actually really important in your day-to-day writing! Whether you're sending an email to a parent, writing in a child's daily log, or completing a report, punctuation helps your message come across clearly (and saves you from some very funny misunderstandings!).

Funny examples of how punctuation changes meaning...

Example 1

Without punctuation: Let's eat children

With punctuation: Let's eat, children. The first one sounds like you're planning a very strange lunch!

Example 2

Without punctuation: We're learning to cut and stick safely everyone

With punctuation: We're learning to cut and stick safely, everyone. The comma shows you're talking to everyone, not about everyone!

Example 3

Without punctuation: Parents please don't forget your babies

With punctuation: Parents, please don't forget your babies. → That tiny comma helps avoid a headline-worthy misunderstanding at pick-up time!

Why it matters in childcare!

Why it matters in the workplace

Good punctuation shows professionalism, helps parents trust your communication, and makes your writing easy to read. In childcare, where you're sharing information about children's safety, progress, and wellbeing, it's essential that your words are clear and accurate.

So next time you write an observation, email, or notice – take a second look before you hit send. The right punctuation might just save you (and your Centre Director) a few laughs – or a few phone calls!

Getting the most out of your off-the-job training

BE PROACTIVE!

Look for opportunities to engage in research or take on new projects that can count as off the job training. This could be a new skill you would like to develop or to find out more about a topic which has interested you. Not only does this make your learning more enjoyable and relevant, but it also helps build your career and helps you achieve your goals. You could even find new ideas to share with your team!

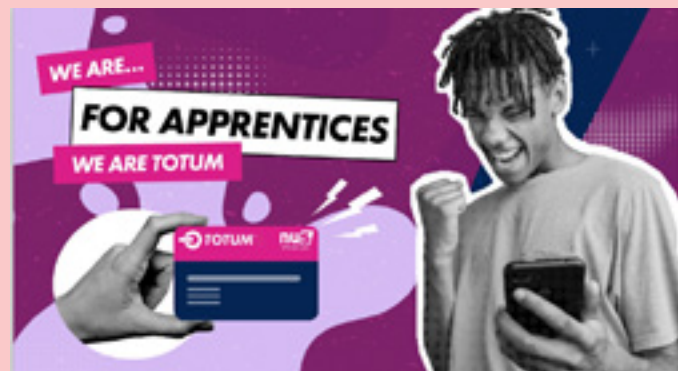


Health and Wellbeing

Contact Us

Need to speak with an IQA?
Advice on your apprenticeship?
Contact your IQA Team
trainingquality@busybees.com

In the event you have a
safeguarding concern that
impacts on your training please
contact our DSL team BBT.
Safeguarding@busybees.com



**Learning with us, you
can get your hands on
a TOTUM card!**

NUS Apprentice Extra is now TOTUM Apprentice! The only discount card for apprentices in the UK, TOTUM Apprentice has loads of new benefits with hundreds of new discounts, brand new app, new and improved website, PASS proof of age ID (available on renewal) and FREE taste card & Coffee Club!

Find out more here <https://totum.com/campaigns/apprentice-extra-is-now-totum-apprentice>

Talk Money Week 3 - 7 November 2025

Talk Money Week is an annual campaign which encourages people to have open conversations about money. It aims for conversations around money to become part of daily life.

The Money Helper Service has lots of helpful tips to help start conversations about money and can provide advice around budgeting, credit and debt, pensions and more.

**Money
Helper**



Strut Safe is a volunteer organisation that operates a nonjudgmental support line who you can contact if you are going home alone until you are safe. The organisation offers a safe space for individuals, and their overall goal is to make sure people get home safely. You can call strut safe if you are worried about making a journey alone, and the call handler is there to keep you company from travelling from one point to another. Calls to Strut Safe are almost always free if you have inclusive minutes within your phone package. Calls to 03 numbers are charged at normal calls rates depending on your mobile provider. Take a look at the information for contact details and opening times of Strut Safe here <https://strutsafe.org/>

Ever wondered what's next?

One of our Development Coaches, Teresa went to Oxford Brookes University to talk to students about her role, during a professional's day.

Teresa started her journey in Early Years and Education in 2013. She started with a placement at a school and completed her level 3 qualification. Teresa then moved to a Preschool Playgroup working with children 2 - 5 years and then moved into a senior role in an Early Years Setting, as a Preschool Leader, before returning back to a school to work with children with Special Educational Needs. Teresa developed her career as a Development Coach in 2023, completing a Training Assessment and Quality Assurance qualification and more recently Education and Training. With the wealth of knowledge and experience Teresa has gained, she was able to give students a valuable insight into the many different careers opportunities Early Years qualifications can hold. The students engaged confidently and asked insightful questions to develop a deeper understanding of the Early Years sector.



Speak to your Development Coach to find out where your journey can take you!

Working within Early Years can be a fulfilling and rewarding career, with various career routes and opportunities you can take. The Government's Early Years Careers website has lots of real-life stories from apprentices just starting out in their Early Years journey, experienced Early Years Educators and Childminders and people who have swapped their career to work in Early Years.

Have a look at the website and see where your journey can go!

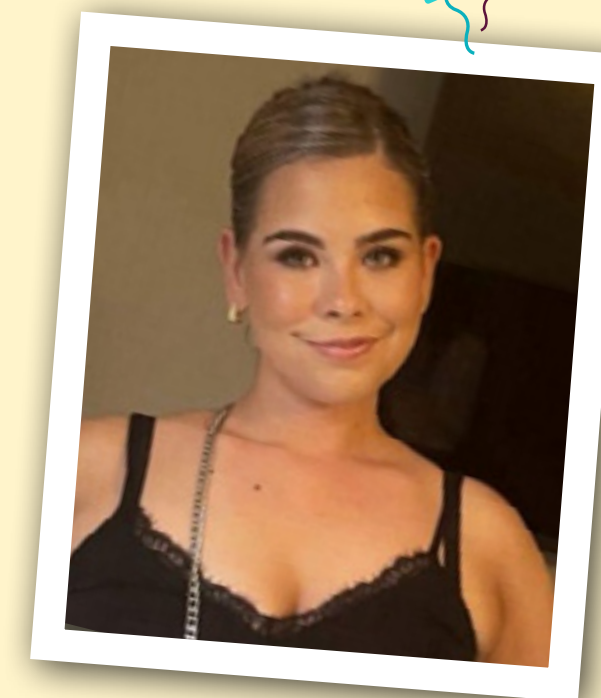
<https://earlyyears-careers.campaign.gov.uk/real-stories/>

Celebrating your success!



This month, we've heard from Emily who has recently passed her functional skills English, and she told us

I only left school last year. Walked out with low grades in Maths and English. So, the fact that I've gone from that all the way to a pass in 8 months, just shows when you put your head down, you can do it. I attended a lot of the functional skills teaching sessions. They're so helpful. I know I've had days where I was out of the room all day and I've only been in the room for two hours a day because I was doing back-to-back lessons and it's tiring, you've just got to think if you want the qualification, you've got to put your head down and do it and then you go home and then you revise. The work doesn't stop when you get home, you've got to go home and do your coursework and then revision. I did some of the lesson a few times, normally it's Mark, Amanda or Julie and found the repetition helpful.



We asked Emily to share some advice for others who are working on their functional skills. She said "Don't worry about it. It does come across scary and that sometimes you might think you're not going to do it but just know that you can do it. You might think you can't, but you can achieve anything that you put your mind to."



Upcoming Events in November

1st November - All Saints Day

2nd November - All Souls Day

3rd November - Bhai Dooj

4th - 8th November - Stress Awareness Week

5th November - Bonfire Night

10th - 14th November - Anti-Bullying Week

10th - 14th November - World Nursery Rhyme Week

11th November - Remembrance Day

12th November - Odd Socks Day

15th November - 23rd November Maths Week

30th November - St Andrew's Day



White Ribbon Day 25th November

White Ribbon Day is an annual campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls.

White Ribbon Day encourages everyone to speak up and have their voices heard to ensure safety, equality and respect.

Find out more here <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/wespeakup>

Children in Need 14th November



Men's Mental Health Month



Is a month-long campaign to raise awareness about men's mental health challenges, encourage open conversations, and reduce the stigma surrounding men seeking support for mental health and wellbeing. This also coincides with Movember an annual event that takes to raise awareness and funds for men's health issues, including prostate and testicular cancer, and mental health and suicide prevention.

Find out more here <https://mentalhealth-uk.org/mens-mental-health/>
<https://uk.movember.com/about/foundation>

Safeguarding

**What's
happening
in your area?**

Scotland

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse
Scotland (DSDAS)

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Yorkshire and the Humber

Hull school first to re-sign the Safer Schools Agreement

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

North East

Family of murdered toddler told
new law unlikely

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

North West

Manchester Attack

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

East Midlands

Scam alert regarding unexpected
tarmac offers

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

West Midlands

More than 20 arrests as Operation
Advance makes big impact in Walsall

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

East of England

Sex offender priest may have
more victims - police

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

South West

Five arrested and seven women safeguarded
as part of modern slavery investigation which
began in Chippenham

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

South East

Children could kill with catapults,
farmers warn

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

London

Haringey sorry for 1,100 unread
social work emails

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

We would love to hear your ideas and suggestion of content you would like to be included in our future editions. Please scan the QR code to share your thoughts and ideas:

