

LEARNER NEWS

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

In this issue

Cyber Attacks

Catering Competition is back!

Celebrating your Success

Cyber Attacks

In recent months, cyber-attacks have been making headlines, with large companies being hit.

M&S was hit by a major ransomware attack in April 2025. The attack caused massive disruption in stores and online, forcing staff to return to manual systems. It's estimated that M&S lost around £300 million as a result. Some customer data was stolen, and people were warned to watch out for phishing emails and suspicious messages.



September 2025, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) suffered a cyber attack that halted production in factories around the world. Thousands of workers were sent home, and the company's supply chain was thrown into chaos. Recovery is still ongoing and expected to take weeks or even months.

More recently, nursery chain Kido was targeted where it is reported that the hackers stole highly sensitive personal data on up to 8,000 children and their families – including names, addresses, photos, and even medical details. This information was taken from the nursery's software provider.



Incidents like this remind us that it only takes one mistake, such as clicking a bad link or sharing a password, to open the door to an attack.

Cyber attack groups often:

- Try to trick people through social engineering (pretending to be IT staff or trusted colleagues).
- Send emails or messages that look urgent but are fake.
- Exploit weak passwords or accounts without multi-factor authentication.
- Leak stolen data to pressure organisations.

Help keep yourself safe

- Think before you click
- Verify requests
- Use strong security
- Report concerns immediately

Remember, cyber criminals rely on human error, but by staying alert, we can stop them.

STAY SAFE ONLINE

Busy Bees.
Education and Training



BE SMART

- S** **SAFE** Stay Safe online by not sharing your personal information.
- M** **MEET** Do not meet anyone who you have only become friends with online on your own. If you are meeting someone new go with a family member or friend. Ensure you share your location with others and meet in a busy, well-lit area.
- A** **ACCEPT** Do not accept messages and friend requests from people you do not know. Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts.
- R** **RELIABLE** Not everything online is reliable. People online are strangers, and you can't always trust everything they say.
- T** **TELL** Tell a someone you trust if anything happens online that you do not like, and ensure you report effectively and immediately.

KEEP IT PRIVATE

When on the internet you must keep your personal details private. Otherwise, others online could find them and use the information.

Your password should be:

- Easy to remember but hard for others to guess
- Different for every account
- A mixture of letters, numbers and special characters.
- Changed regular



To create a strong password, combine three random words that have a meaning to you.

KEEP PERSONAL DETAILS PRIVATE

Personal information includes:

- Phone number
- Address
- Age
- Bank Details.

NEVER POST OR SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION ONLINE!



BEWARE OF IDENTITY THEFT!!

Criminals online may try to get your information so they can pretend to be you. This is called identity theft.

To stop this remember to:

- Never share things with strangers
- Only talk to people you know
- Keep your information private.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

A digital footprint is information about a person that exists on the internet. Your digital footprint shapes your online reputation.

Following Digital Footprint

It's important to consider the impact of what we create, post or share online. Your online activity can often be seen beyond your intended audience and could include future employers.

- Could anyone feel insulted by my post?
- Am I portraying myself positively?
- Who can see my posts?
- Am I posting when feeling angry or upset?

Why don't you check your own Digital footprint by doing a simple web search of your name?



SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY DO'S AND DON'T'S

DO'S

- Think before you post
- Use your accounts privacy settings to control who can view your posts
- Post what you'd be happy for your family to see
- Be positive, informed, responsible and considerate.

DON'T'S

- Don't argue, swear or post offensive content
- Don't post about illegal activities
- Don't post any confidential information
- Don't complain about a specific person.

Continued Professional Development (CPD)

Focus on Theory: Elinor Goldschmied

Elinor Goldschmied was a pioneer in child development working as an Early Years Educator and a Social Worker. She believed that children are naturally curious and learn best when they can explore freely at their own pace.

Key ideas

Treasure Baskets support brain development, builds confidence, focus, and sensory exploration and curiosity

Heuristic play encourages concentration, creativity, and independent thinking.

Emotional security is essential for children to engage in meaningful play.

What Is a Treasure Basket?

A Treasure Basket is a low-sided basket filled with a variety of everyday objects made from natural materials like wood, metal, fabric, leather, and rubber. These items allow children to explore different textures, weights, sounds and smells.

Benefits of Treasure Baskets...

- Provide opportunities for children to explore using their senses
- Promote independence
- Support concentration
- Stimulate curiosity
- Develops fine motor skills

Want to know more about Elinor Goldschmied and Treasure Baskets?

<https://www.froebel.org.uk/training-and-resources/elinor-goldschmied-treasure-baskets>



Examples of items:

- Pumice stone
- Wooden spoon
- Wooden nail brush
- Curtain rings
- A natural sponge
- Whisk
- Metal or wooden egg cups
- Leather purse
- A silk scarf
- Cotton bags

SAFETY FIRST

Make sure items are clean

Check for sharp edges or items which may splinter

Check the size of the objects, ensure that there are no choking hazards

Supervise the activity!



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	3	4
				9.30-10.30 Leading in an Early Years Setting	9.30-11.30 Health and Safety 10.00-12.00 Safeguarding	
5	9.00-10.00 Off the job support session	6	7	8	9	11
			2.00-3.00 The reflective practitioner		9.30-10.30 EPA support session EYP 2	
12	9.30-11.00 Working in partnership with others	13	14	15	16	18
		9.30-11.00 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion 9.30-10.30 EPA support session (pre-April 2024)	10.30-11.30 EPA support session EYLP 5	9.30-11.30 Health and Safety 10.00-11.00 Using technology in Early Years		
19		20	21	22	23	25
		9.30-10.30 EPA support (post April 2024)			9.30-10.30 Working in partnership with others	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			10.00-12.00 Development, Assessment, Play and Pedagogy 2.00-4.00 – Safeguarding		9.30-11.00 Development Assessment, Play and Pedagogy 9.00-10.30 Health, wellbeing and resilience	

Functional Skills Sessions

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	29/06/2025	30/06/2025	01/07/2025	02/07/2025	03/07/2025
10:15 - 11:45	Maths: Averages & Range (1)		English Reading: Purpose, Language, Facts & Opinions	Maths: Shapes (Perimeter, Area & Volume) (1)	Maths: Non-Calculator (1)
12:00 - 13:30		English Writing: Sentences & Paragraphs	Maths: Ratio & Scales (1)		Maths: Units & Measures (1)
13:45 - 15:15	Maths: BIDMAS (1)	Maths: Fractions (1)		English Writing: Formatting Texts	
15:00 - 20:30	English Reading: Comparing Texts & Bias		Maths: Percentages (1)		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	04/07/2025	05/07/2025	06/07/2025	06/07/2025	10/07/2025
10:15 - 11:45		Maths: Shapes (Perimeter, Area & Volume) (2)	Maths: Nets & Elevations (2)		Maths: Decimals (2)
12:00 - 13:30	Maths: Angles & Bearings (2)		Maths: Probability (2)	Maths: Graphs & Tables (2)	English Reading: Comparing Texts & Bias
13:45 - 15:15	English Writing: Sentences & Paragraphs	English Reading: Purpose, Language, Facts & Opinions		English Reading: Writing Styles & Organisational Features	
15:00 - 20:30	Maths: Interest (2)		English Writing: Grammar & Punctuation		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	13/07/2025	14/07/2025	15/07/2025	16/07/2025	17/07/2025
10:15 - 11:45	Maths: Percentages (3)		English Writing: Grammar & Punctuation	English Reading: Comparing Texts & Bias	Maths: Averages & Range (3)
12:00 - 13:30	English Writing: Sentences & Paragraphs	Maths: Non-Calculator (3)		Maths: BIDMAS (3)	Maths: Units & Measures (3)
13:45 - 15:15		English Writing: Formatting Texts	Maths: Fractions (3)		
15:00 - 20:30	English Reading: Writing Styles & Organisational Features		Maths: Ratio & Scales (3)		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	20/07/2025	21/07/2025	22/07/2025	23/07/2025	24/07/2025
10:15 - 11:45	English Reading: Purpose, Language, Facts & Opinions	Maths: Probability (4)		Maths: Fractions (4)	Maths: Interest (4)
12:00 - 13:30	Maths: Decimals (4)		English Reading: Comparing Texts & Bias		Maths: Percentages (4)
13:45 - 15:15		English Writing: Sentences & Paragraphs	Maths: Shapes (Perimeter, Area & Volume) (4)	Maths: Averages & Range (4)	
15:00 - 20:30	Maths: BIDMAS (4)		English Writing: Formatting Texts		

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	27/07/2025	28/07/2025	29/07/2025	30/07/2025	31/07/2025
10:15 - 11:45	Maths: Fractions (5)		Maths: Non-Calculator (5)		Maths: Angles & Bearings (5)
12:00 - 13:30	English Writing: Grammar & Punctuation	Maths: Units & Measures (5)		Maths: Graphs & Tables (5)	English Writing: Formatting Texts
13:45 - 15:15		English Writing: Sentences & Paragraphs	English Reading: Purpose, Language, Facts & Opinions	Maths: Ratio & Scales (5)	
15:00 - 20:30			Maths: Shapes (Perimeter, Area & Volume) (5)		



Why is off-the-job important?

Not only does OTJ training support the learning journey throughout the apprenticeship, it is a funding requirement that OTJ is recorded in your e-portfolio. Without reaching the minimum OTJ required, apprentices are unable to enter Gateway for End Point Assessment and therefore unable to achieve the apprenticeship.



Off-the-Job training checklist

To ensure apprentices are clear with OTJ - ask the following questions:

Are you undertaking this activity signed up to the apprenticeship programme?

Is the activity directly relevant to the apprenticeship?

Is the activity teaching **new** knowledge, skills and behaviours?

Is the learning taking place in contracted working hours?

Want to get the most out of your off-the-job training?

Have a chat!

Chat with your employer and Development Coach to plan activities that help you grow your knowledge, skills, and confidence. It could be something new you want to learn, something you're curious about, or even finding better, more engaging ways to do things.

Creating a quality entry!

Start with your intent - what did you want to or need to learn

Add your implementation - record what you did

Finish with your impact - reflect on what you learned.

Tip: Use sentence starters to help you

"Observing these techniques taught me new ideas...."

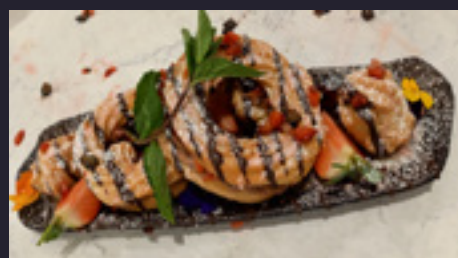


CATERING COMPETITION!



During National Apprenticeship Week in February 2026,
we will again be running out catering competition.

Take a look at some of last year's fantastic apprentices and entries

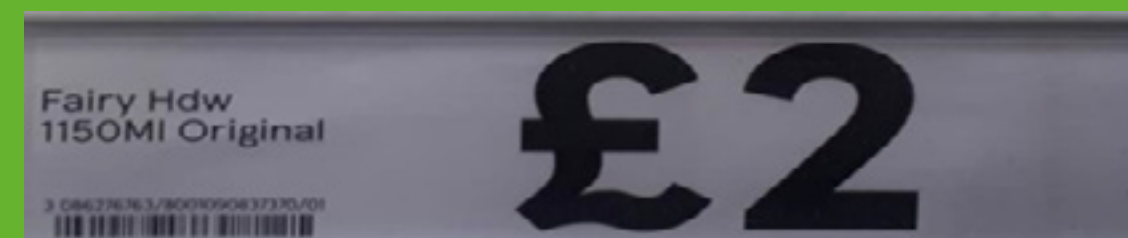
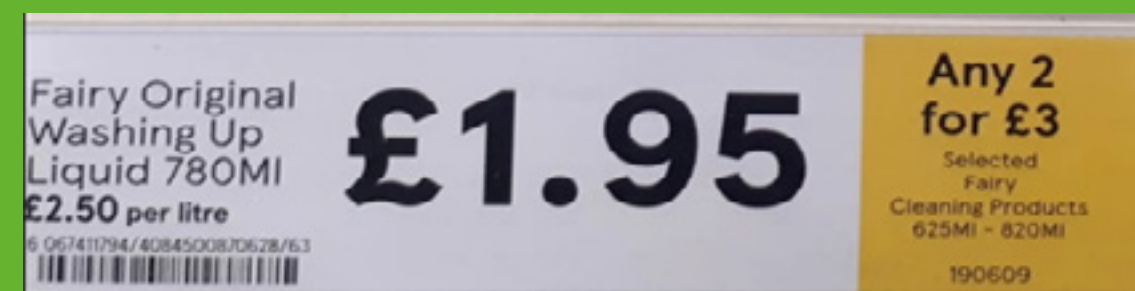
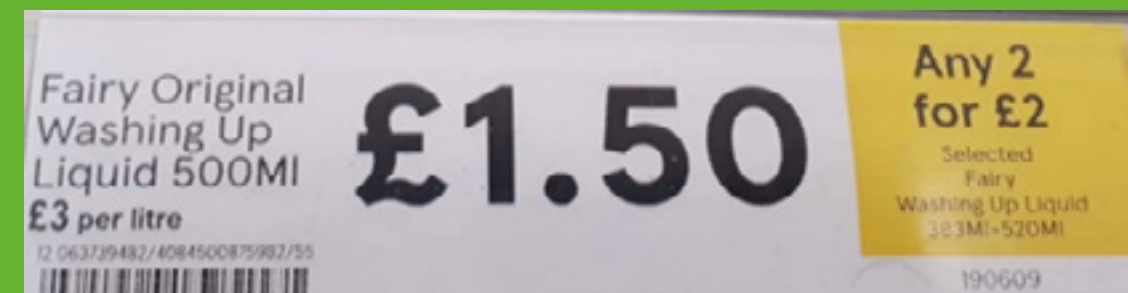


Will you be our next winner???
For more information speak to **Simon Hart**.

Functional Skills



**Can you work
out the best
value for
money?**



Health and Wellbeing

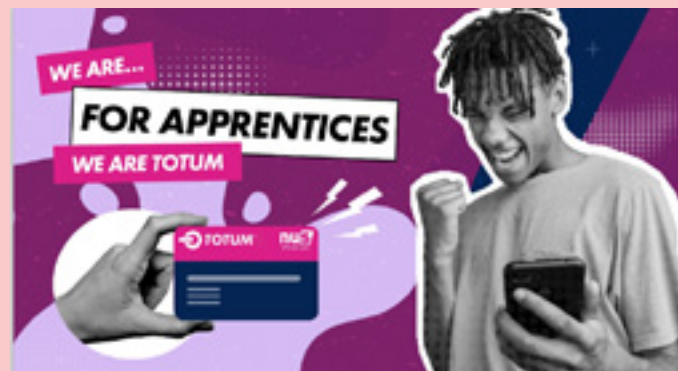
Contact Us

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

Teachers and Early Years Educators can enjoy discounts across various sectors, including retail, hospitality, entertainment, travel and more with a Blue Light Card

Click [here](#) to find out more



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>



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/>

Step Into Wellbeing

Looking after your own health and wellbeing is essential—especially when working in busy, physically active roles like those in early years education, busy kitchen environments or when days of meeting after meeting and a lot of screen time leave very little room for movement. A simple way to get more activity is to go for a walk, jog or run!

Incorporating regular walking or running into your routine can have a significant positive impact on both your physical and mental health.

Physical benefits

- Improved cardiovascular health
- Increased energy levels
- Stronger muscles and joints



Emotional benefits

- Reduced stress and anxiety
- Improved sleep quality
- Increased concentration and focus



Staying Safe

Before you go

Plan your route

Choose well-lit and populated areas

Let someone know your route and when you expect to be back, Check the weather, dress appropriately for the conditions.

During your Walk or Run

Wear bright or reflective clothing

Be aware of your surroundings

Carry essentials like water and your phone

Walk or run facing traffic

Whether you're walking through a park, around your local area, or fitting in a short run, taking time to move your body regularly is a simple yet powerful way to support your wellbeing.



Getting Started

- Start with small, manageable goals
- Choose a time that fits your routine, such as walking before or after work, or using your lunch break for a quick stroll.
- Use free apps or trackers to set goals and monitor your progress:
- Strava will track your route and share your personal bests for that bit of motivation!
- Couch to 5K - weekly plan to get you moving, chose your trainer to give you motivation and works with your music player.
- NHS active 10 - counts every step, helps set goals and shows your achievements.
- You can find these apps on Google Play and App Store
- Start a walking group or running group with friends or family.

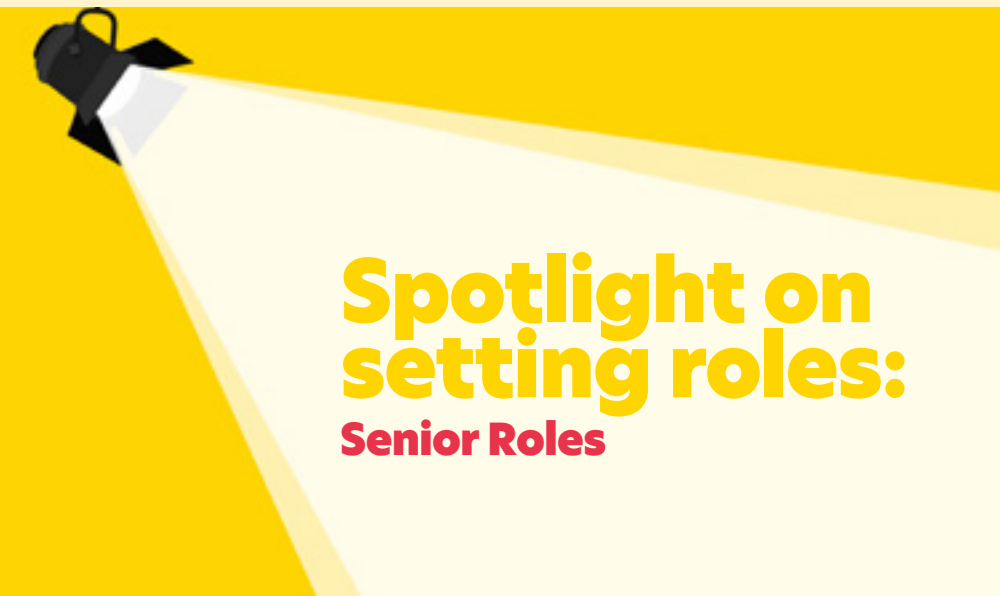
After your Walk or Run

Cool down gradually

Rehydrate

Have a small healthy snack

If you feel unsafe! Trust your instincts, head to safety, shout for help!

A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left corner onto the text below.

Spotlight on setting roles:

Senior Roles

Thinking of progressing in your own career?

Senior roles in early years settings are about shaping futures, nurturing staff, and creating environments where children thrive.

Depending on the size and structure of a setting, these roles typically include:

- Nursery/Setting Manager/Centre Directors
- Deputy Manager
- Room Leaders
- Early Years Coordinators
- Operations or Area Managers

Key Responsibilities

- Implementing and updating policies
- Ensuring compliance with EYFS and Ofsted regulations
- Planning for staff development and setting growth
- Supervise and mentor staff
- Conduct appraisals or supervisions and identify training needs
- Manage staffing levels and rotas effectively
- Support staff understand and apply best practice teaching methods
- Communicating regularly and effectively with parents

- Promoting inclusion and diversity
- Building partnerships with local schools, health visitors, and agencies
- Conduct risk assessments and maintain health and safety standards

Routes to senior roles can include:

- Gaining relevant qualifications and training
- Taking on key responsibilities
- Mentoring others
- Pursuing CPD opportunities



Thinking of a career outside of an Early Years setting?

A photograph of a woman in a blue uniform, likely a nurse, interacting with a young child in a pink jacket. Another child is partially visible in the background.

Community Based Nursery Nurse

As a Community Based Nursery Nurse, you work alongside a variety of health care professionals supporting children and families.

Roles and responsibilities

- Support the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (0-5 years) under the supervision of the Health Visitor
- Support developmental reviews,
- Work with vulnerable or targeted families.
- Provide health advice
- Promote breastfeeding
- Assist in health clinics
- Works closely with the Health Visitor and refers to appropriate services as needed.

Want to know more?

<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/wider-healthcare-team/roles-wider-healthcare-team/corporate-services/nursery->

What's going on in **October**



Black History Month - 1-31st October



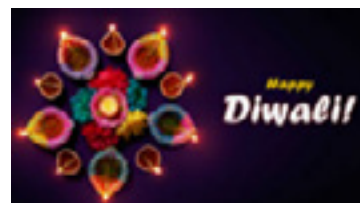
Columbus Day - 13th October



**World Mental Health Day
10th October**



Diwali - 17th-20th October



**Invisible Disabilities Week
19th-25th October**



National Day of Spain - 12th October



National Nursery Practitioner Day



Halloween - 31st October



Safeguarding

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



Scotland

Pupils able to access banned websites despite council claims

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Yorkshire and the Humber

September Operation Spotlight

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

North East

Woman who filmed sexual abuse banned from teaching

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



North West

TakingAction to target domestic abuse perpetrators

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



West Midlands

Teenager charged over knife incident at college

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



South West

Police raise awareness around spiking

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

South East

Food banks warn demand has reached crisis point

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

East Midlands

Drug dealers jailed after County Lines investigation in town

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



East of England

24% of fatal or serious injury collision involve young drivers

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

London

Salt & Ice Challenge - Risks to Children and Young People

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Celebrating your Success

CONGRATULATIONS SARAH!

This month we have caught up with Sarah who has recently completed her level 3.

Here's what she had to say...

"I have recently completed my level 3 in childcare through Busy Bees training providers and I was thrilled to receive a Distinction grade. I have worked for Busy Bees for seven and a half years at the Leamington Spa site. I completed my level 2 in childcare a few years ago and decided to take the next step in view of hoping to further my career. Although the work can be hard and finding time to complete assignments proved difficult, I received excellent coaching and support from colleagues and my assessors.

As a result of completing this qualification, I have been able to advance to my latest role of Room manager and I am looking forward to continuing my knowledge and skills in this position."



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:

