



Headteacher: Mrs H Ward

Stancliffe Road  
Bedford  
MK41 9AT  
Tel: 01234 300100  
Fax: 01234 300102  
Email: [office@hazeldeneschool.co.uk](mailto:office@hazeldeneschool.co.uk)  
[www.hazeldeneschool.co.uk](http://www.hazeldeneschool.co.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> September 2015  Safeguarding Standard

Dear Parents/Carers

In collaboration with the children we are setting up a mud kitchen in Foundation and Nursery and it would be fabulous if you could help us develop it and kit it out.

**What is a Mud Kitchen?** 'There is little more important in our physical world than earth and water and they are truly intriguing things, especially when they interact. Mixing soil, water and a range of other natural materials has a foundational role in early childhood which has deep importance and endless possibilities for well-being, development and learning. The breadth and depth of what these experiences offer young children is truly remarkable.\*

*(Extract from Making a Mud Kitchen  
[www.muddyfaces.co.uk](http://www.muddyfaces.co.uk))*

Mud kitchens provide something quite different to a soil digging patch, whilst also being much more easily managed. A mud kitchen includes elements of the much-loved domestic corner and cooking from indoor play, which are then hugely enriched through the special nature of being outside. We are planning that the mud kitchen will become a core element of our continuous provision outside.

To allow the children the freedom to play, explore and learn to their full extent in the mud kitchen it is really important that children are encouraged to feel the textures of the materials with their fingers, transfer liquids from one container to another, to splash, slop, stir and whizz. To create sticky mud and explore its adaptations.



We will be endeavouring to ensure the children stay as clean as possible by ensuring they wear the correct all in one covers we have purchased

**How you can help.**

We are looking for items to build the mud kitchen with.

**Do you have any unwanted:**

Pots and pans, jugs or funnels

Bakeware Bun tins, Cake tins

Bowls and containers

Kitchen utensils of any sort

Any unusual, utensils such as an ice-cream scoop, turkey basters, ladles, slotted spoons and skimmers, scoops, rolling pins, colanders, chopping boards

Small containers, sweet tins, small baskets, large tubs

Unusual containers such as jelly moulds or ice-cube trays.

washing up bowl

An old cook book with good pictures in.

**Also** we require other items to continue to develop the kitchen with such as

An old cupboard

A small dresser or Shelving

Work tops, planks, wooden logs and stumps.

Please ensure any items you supply: Are made from strong materials that do not shatter dangerously, that they are clean and well maintained. Cosmetic damage is fine but please check for breaks and sharp edges.

If you would like more information about Mud Kitchens please look at the muddyfaces website 'Making a Mud Kitchen' page  
[http://www.muddyfaces.co.uk/mud\\_kitchens.php](http://www.muddyfaces.co.uk/mud_kitchens.php)

If you have any items you can donate please come and speak to the Foundation or Nursery team.

Thank you very much for your continued support

The Foundation and Nursery Team

