

## Nursery Newsletter for

February - March 2017.



Dear Parents,

When we return after the February half term holidays, we will continue with lots of planning based upon our observations of your children and their interests. We will also be talking about the key calendar dates which occur during the following half term, including, St David's Day and St Patrick's Day. We will be finding out about Holi, the Hindu festival of colour. We will be learning about the season of Spring and how we can recognise signs of Spring in our environment. We will also be enjoying lots of Arts and Crafts for both Mother's Day and Easter.

Last half term, we were very lucky to receive visits from one of our Nursery parents, who is a Midwife and came to talk to us about her job and another parent who brought in a beautiful Chihuahua puppy for us. We are always happy to welcome visitors into our setting, to enrich our curriculum, so if you are able to talk about a particular interest or your occupation and would like to come in then please speak to our Nursery staff to arrange a visit. We are also keen to arrange for some animal visitors if anybody has a pet that they would be willing to come in and show our Nursery children, please speak to a member of staff.

Our focus in our 'Letters and Sounds' (phonic) sessions next half term will be 'Oral Blending and Segmenting'. We will be encouraging the children to split words down into individual sounds, which we call 'robot talking' or 'sound talking' for example 'c-a-t' or 'd-o-g' and to blend individual sounds back into words again. At this stage this is being done verbally and through lots of practical games and activities. It does not yet involve teaching letter recognition. It would be fantastic if you could encourage your child to do some 'sound talking' with you at home. It is however extremely important that you encourage and use the correct pronunciation of the sounds. There are many clips on the internet which will demonstrate these to you. You will see many of the sounds may be pronounced in a different way to how you may have been taught at school yourself. Please pay particular attention to how the following sounds are said - c, f, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v. A clip I would recommend to you on 'You tube' is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlpmpWOUFY> or you can search for it by searching 'Sound Pronunciation Guide - Ruth Miskin Training'.

We will also be creating lots more wonderful 'Tales Toolkit' stories with our big bags, in our Literacy sessions. After our big group stories, we will send home a story strip for you to use to encourage your child to retell our story. Although there is no obligation to return these to school, we really do love reading the stories in the children's own words. It is fantastic they are able to recall the main events from our stories to you at home. It makes the staff so proud that they are using words like 'character', 'setting', 'problem' and 'solution', independently, when retelling a story.

In mathematics our focus will be comparing two groups of objects and saying which has more/less/the same and also matching the correct numeral to the objects. We will also begin ordering items by length, height, weight and capacity within our play. We will continue to update our Number Table in the cloakroom, with a new 'Number of the Week'. Please feel free to bring objects such as leaves, stones, sticks etc to add to our table, which demonstrate the relevant number each week. Only bring things that your child will not need back again. We will also continue to send home Monty and Milo (our Maths Monkeys). We are really enjoying looking at all the fantastic maths work that you are doing at home with your children.

We will continue to learn to write our names. We are noticing the children's confidence in writing their names is really improving. They are now beginning to label their own work and paintings too. If you are practising this at

home, please remember to ensure the children only use a capital letter at the start of their name and lower case for the rest. Also, try to encourage them to start each letter in the correct place. If you need any further help or advice with this, please speak to the Nursery staff.

Could I also take this opportunity to remind everybody about our 'Wow!' certificates. These can be found in the front of your child's 'Home/School Book' and are for you to use to record your 'proud moments' from home. We would like you to return the completed certificates as and when you like (weekly if you wish or less frequently if you prefer) by putting them back into the plastic pocket in the front of your child's Home/School book. When we share your child's 'Home/School Book' with their class, we will check if you have filled the WOW! in. If you have, this will be read and celebrated in the session. We will then add it to your child's 'Learning Journey' and send you a new blank one home, ready for your next celebration. That way, their 'Learning Journey' is a record of their achievements both at home and at school. Many thanks to the parents, that have already been filling in 'WOW' certificates.

You can also send in any certificates/photographs in from clubs such as swimming, judo, dancing etc. that your child may receive in the future for us to photocopy and add to their Learning Journey.

As you know, we have now introduced 'Rainbow Challenges' to the children. Hopefully, your children have been talking to you lots about this at home. The idea is that we have seven challenges within our provision areas for the children to complete. Each challenge corresponds to a coloured lolly stick. We are encouraging each child to complete the challenges and collect the sticks in order to complete a full rainbow of 7 different colours. Anybody that does all 7 challenges will receive a special certificate, which will be presented during our Early Years Achievement Assembly. Your child has their rainbow on display in Nursery which you are very welcome to come in and look at and see which challenges they have done and which they still need to complete. You will then be able to encourage these activities with them.

Please can all parents check that their child has a complete set of spare clothes, including underwear (it doesn't have to be uniform) on their peg in a drawstring bag. We are very short of spare clothing in Nursery and the children often feel more comfortable wearing their own familiar clothing too. If you have borrowed any Nursery clothing, please return it to us as soon as possible. Our supplies keep running very low if things are not returned.

We have a Parents evening on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March for all parents to make a 10 minute appointment with Miss Copeland to discuss their child's progress. A letter will be sent out next half term with further information.

Just a quick reminder, that our 'Adhoc' booking list is now open. We take bookings up to two weeks in advance (or as late as on the day, subject to availability). We are now able to take bookings for the week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February and the week commencing Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

This is a great opportunity to book a session and see how your child enjoys a FULL day with us. If you would like to book any Adhoc sessions please speak to a member of Nursery staff and we can check availability and hopefully book you in.

Finally, if you have not yet returned your 'Technology Questionnaire' to Nursery, could you please do this as soon as possible. The information you provide is really helpful to us and will be added to your child's Learning Journey and Nursery tracker.

From all our Early Years Team.