

The Children's Learning



Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term. We hope that you all had a super half term holiday break (seems a long time ago already) and have adjusted to the darker nights.

The children have learnt so much already since the break both inside and outside. Many of the children attended firework displays this year and they have been keen to follow this theme through at Nursery. Together we have thought of lots of describing words such as 'bang, fizz and pop' and written them together. We have learnt how to stay safe, creating pictures and paintings and dancing to a range of music including Katy Perry, Harry Potter and Classical music with scarves like fireworks.

Outside the children have been digging in the soil in our vegetable patch as they plan which vegetables they would like to grow next year. As they dug the children discovered lots of worms in the soil and they have been fascinated by them. We have a big information book in Nursery all about worms and the children always enjoy finding out about their habitats and why they are good for the soil and the environment.

Another popular theme at the moment is "volcanoes." We have introduced the concept of an experiment to the children and they have enjoyed making their own erupting volcanoes by mixing bicarbonate of soda with coloured vinegar. It was exciting when we dropped Mentos into a bottle of lemonade and noticed the effect, we learnt lots of new scientific words such as "floating, sinking, effervescing, liquid and gas."



The children have been responding really well to our three rules "ready, respectful and safe" and are using these words in context themselves.

There is a display for parents in the library area to help explain how we are using these three rules at Nursery.



In The Moment Planning

As you will know we have changed the format we use for sharing your child's learning with you this term. We are now operating a system called "In the moment planning." Instead of recording just one of your child's learning experiences with you each term, we are now recording several moments spanning a whole week using photographs and written accounts. The whole team contributes to this planning which involves looking at all of the children's interests and fascinations in order to tailor make learning experiences for them. We share this learning map with parents in a meeting and we have received very positive feedback from you so far. If your child has not yet received their copy please rest assured that they will do so soon, before the end of term.

Christmas

As Christmas is approaching we thought we would share our arrangements with you.

Nursery is closed all day on Friday 6th December for the Norden Farm Theatre trip. Tickets are now sold out but there is a waiting list and you may be able to purchase tickets directly from Norden Farm if they have any remaining on 01628 788997.

We will be selling raffle tickets for an adult Christmas Hamper and a child's Christmas Hamper from Monday 9th December.

Our Christmas Sing-a-Long is on Wednesday 11th December, see poster attached.



The Christmas party and Santa visit will be on Tuesday 17th December in normal session times. There is no need to provide anything thank you.

A couple of reminders

- Please can we remind all parents to park responsibly, away from double yellow lines, keeping our neighbours' driveways access clear.
- Keep encouraging your child to practice putting on their scarf, hat, gloves, wellies and coat independently and make sure that they come appropriately dressed for the weather. Please make sure you name all of these items clearly.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 28th November - Zoolab reptile workshop visiting Nursery

Friday 6th December - Nursery trip to Norden Farm theatre (3 - 4 year old children only).
Nursery is closed all day today. Theatre trip is in the afternoon.

Monday 9th December-Christmas Hamper raffle tickets on sale from today at the office.

Wednesday 11th December - Christmas Singing to our Parents/ Carers at 11.15am and 2.45pm

Tuesday 17th December- Christmas parties all day, Santa visiting.

Friday 20th December—Morning session only today. There is no lunch club or afternoon session today. Nursery closes at 11.45am for the Christmas holidays.

Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th January 2020 - Nursery closed for Home Visits to new children

Wednesday 8th January 2020 - New entrants into Nursery only.

Thursday 9th January 2020 - ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO NURSERY.

Speech technique of the Month

Speech Technique of the Month

Think about the listening conditions

Children need to be able to listen carefully to discriminate between different speech sounds and to follow instructions.

Provide a quiet and cosy area at home for talking and listening.

Make sure that the television and music are used for a specific purpose and not just on in the background.



Each month we display the speech technique of the month on the board inside the double doors in Nursery as well as emailing you home a copy of these tips. We hope that you find this a useful resource. Please speak to your child's key person if you have any concerns about your child's speech development, we are happy to support you in supporting them.

Children in Need



We supported BBC Children in Need on Friday 15th November by wearing spots or fancy dress to Nursery. Thank you for helping us to raise the total of £84.92. for this very worthwhile cause.



School Applications

Online admissions is now open for children eligible to start school next September 2020.

Closing date - Wednesday 15 January 2020 (Midday)

National Offer Day - Wednesday 16 April 2020

Parents/carers of children born between 1st April and 31st August 2016 can apply to defer entry into school by a year. Please see guidance on this in the Admission into Primary School guide on the RBWM website:

https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4563/school_admissions_guide_primary_2020.pdf

Our advice is to look around a few schools during the working day and this should give you a feel for the school that will 'fit' your child best. **In order to have more chance of getting the school at the top of your list make sure that you do not miss the application deadline.**



Music

Music is a great medium for developing children's attention and listening skills and their understanding and expression of language. It is also great for enhancing early maths skills due to its repetitive and steady beat. Singing and dancing is usually very enjoyable for young children and unlike some adults they tend to throw themselves wholeheartedly into experiences. Whilst we encourage children to listen to and join in with recordings they have a fixed tempo and do not allow for adaptation whereas the live sung voice and the human interaction that comes with singing is irreplaceable. Some ideas to help you support your child's musical development are:

- Play sound matching games e.g. make sounds by banging utensils, putting different materials in containers that children can't see and invite children to make a matching sound or describe it.
- Make some musical shakers using different materials e.g. yogurt pots filled with sand, rice, cotton wool, pebbles etc. Talk about whether the sound is loud, soft, quiet etc. Play stop and start games allowing your child to lead the game.
- Clap/stamp, tap out different rhythms using body parts - can your child join in, copy and continue the rhythm?
- Encourage children to listen to a wide range of music so that music is not limited to music for "types" of people. Talk about the different instruments you can hear.
- Sing regularly and use a wide range of songs and rhymes
- Make up songs for everyday routines - change the way you sing e.g. sing quietly, rapidly, slowly, sadly, joyfully etc.
- Make up new songs to familiar tunes.