The Lawns Nursery School Newsletter November 2023

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 and have adjusted to the darker evenings. The children have learnt so much already since the break both inside and outside.

We celebrated Diwali together by exploring the festival through stories, looking at artefacts and hearing all about it. The children made their own Diva lamps from clay, developing their fine motor skills as they patiently added tiny beads to their creations. We hope those of you who celebrate Diwali had a peaceful and happy time.

Now that Autumn is well and truly under way the leaves from our many trees are falling rapidly. This provides us with lots of opportunities to compare the different colours and sizes of the leaves as well as the chance to use them in our artistic creations such as our collages and 'leaf men.' It's wonderful to see the children enjoying the changes in seasons in our Nursery garden.

We have introduced the story "The Gingerbread Man" to the children and they have been using the story line in their role play this week. We are going on to explore some of the ingredients in gingerbread, sugar, flour, ground ginger and raisons as we experiment to see which substances sink, float and dissolve in water. The children will learn lots of new vocabulary and be encouraged to describe the changes they see happening.

Next we will introduce actions and Makaton signs to the story telling and the children will retell the story using the actions. Then we will mark make story maps, by this time we will all know the story really well.

One of our curriculum goals is to make something from woodwork. This goal will continue throughout the year and the complexity of the models that the children make will increase as they become more experienced and confident at using the tools and thinking of ideas for their creations.

Already they are able to select the tools and resources they need to join materials to a piece of wood. They understand the woodwork rules of always wearing safety goggles to protect our eyes and that only four children are able to use the bench with an adult at any one time.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11th November - https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admissions

Wednesday 15th November - "Come and Play" with a focus on Communication and Language

Friday 17th November - Children in Need PJ party, donations to CIN.

Wednesday 29th November - Hobgoblin Theatre Company in Nursery, Goldilocks and the Three Bears Performance

Monday 4th December - Christmas Hamper Raffle opens

Tuesday 12th December - Morning Christmas Celebration sing-a-long at 11.15am for parents/carers

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas party during the session time

Thursday 14th December - Afternoon Christmas Celebration sing-a-long at 2.30pm for parents/carers

Friday 15th December - There is no lunch club or afternoon session today. Nursery closes at 11.45am for the Christmas holidays.

January Dates

Wednesday 3rd January and Thursday 4th January - Nursery closed for home visits and Nursery visits.

Friday 5th January - Term starts for children.

A Couple of Reminders

**Please call/ email into the school office if your child is not able to attend Nursery.

**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.

**Please return your child's learning map with comments on about their learning and things they like to do at home, this helps us to plan for their interests and next steps.

Christmas Singing

The children are busy learning our Christmas songs and are they are doing so well! The songs are a mixture of traditional carols, new children's songs and we even have some that we've made up at The Lawns ourselves.

Christmas Sing-Along

The morning children are performing their songs for parents and carers on Tuesday 12th December at 11.15am and the afternoon children are performing on Thursday 14th December at 2.30pm.

If your child does not attend either of these sessions please speak to their key person as they are welcome to come along with you to one or the other of these dates.

School Applications

Online admissions is now open for children eligible to start school next September 2023

Closing date - 15th January 2024

National Offer Day - 16th April 2024

https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/schools-and-education/school-admissions

Our advice is to look around the schools websites and make contact with the schools to see if they are doing any visits as this will 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.

It is also important that parents/carers complete all the choices when completing the form as this has an impact whether you are able to join a waiting list should you not be given your preferred choice.

Christmas Raffle

Every year at The Lawns Nursery School the staff team donate items to fill a children's and adult's Christmas hamper.

This is a lovely way to celebrate Christmas and all the money raised goes towards purchasing resources for the children to enjoy at Nursery.

Tickets will go on sale on Monday 27th November for £1 each and the raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 13th December at 1pm. If you are a lucky winner we will call you.

Children in Need

For Children in Need this year we will be hosting a Pyjama party for the children to enjoy in Nursery.

If they would like to come in their pyjamas on Friday 17th November that would be great. There will be a collection for donations to Children in Need and the children will have lots of bedtime stories, hot chocolate and a biscuit and there will be lots of spotty creations on the day!

Music

Music is a wonderful 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 it's 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.

- Sensitively introduce your child to language to describe sounds and rhythm, e.g. loud and soft, fast and slow. Sing familiar rhymes at different volumes and tempos.

- Listen to music and watch dance when opportunities arise, encouraging them to focus on how sound and movement develop from feelings and ideas.

- If the opportunity arises experiment with a range of musical instruments that are used in different ways, for children to bang, pluck, blow, strum.

- Dance at every opportunity it releases endorphins and makes you feel happy!