

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 14th September 2018

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2018-2019

Issue 1

## NURSERY NEWS

Our new children are settling in really well. They have been exploring their new environment and making new friends. Our existing group of children from last year have been very welcoming and are enjoying getting to know their new friends. We are extremely proud of all our Nursery children!

We have had a lovely week getting to know one another, talking about ourselves and our families and the children have made some super paper plate faces! We look forward to getting to know the children and their families further. Thank you to parents for sending in their family photos, please could any further photos be brought into Nursery as soon as possible to enable us to discuss these with the children. We also hope to make a lovely 'family display' for the children.



The children have been exploring both indoors and outdoors. They have enjoyed the outdoor mark-making area where they have been drawing and making marks, also exploring the sand trays, using their fingers and the wooden tools to make a variety of patterns and marks. The indoor mark-making area has also been very popular. We have had some super pictures and even some Chinese writing. Fantastic!



The children have been showcasing their super fine motor skills during a threading activity, also showing great focus and concentration.

## Snack

Please could morning snacks be in the form of healthy fruit in a small named Tupperware container. Could we ask that if children bring grapes to Nursery, please can these be sliced in half. This is for health and safety reasons and the safety of all children. Alternatively, parents can pay via parent pay for school fruit. Thank you.



Please could we remind parents to name everything; snack boxes, water bottles, wellington boots, bags, and all clothing, including shoes. This helps staff enormously throughout the day and also ensures if something is lost we can make sure it finds its way to the right child!

Please check your child's named tray every day, there may be letters or Nursery information such as weekly food menus which parents may want to complete.

All parents should have now received information regarding their child's new key group and key person. If parents have any further questions regarding this, please speak to a member of Nursery staff. Our key group names are Rabbits, Foxes, Squirrels and Badgers.



On PE and Forest Fun days please can parents place pumps and wellingtons in the allocated boxes inside the cloakroom. Staff do not always have time to check all bags, although if children attend breakfast club then bags will be checked for these items on arrival at Nursery. As children have now been allocated key groups, please place items in the animal box depending on your child's key group, either Fox, Rabbit, Badger or Squirrel. This is the same procedure for snack boxes, please can parents place healthy snacks in the appropriate boxes depending on which animal group they are in. This makes it easier for children to recognise their own snack as they also get to know which animal group they are in, therefore, also promoting independence during snack times.

During this term we will be using a range of rhymes and stories to enhance the children's learning and development. Our theme over the next few weeks will be 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. If your child would like to bring any toys or books relating to this story we would love to share them in Nursery.

We would like finish by reiterating how beautifully our new children are settling into Nursery. They are all very happy and beginning to form new friendships, which is lovely to see.

Finally, we thought it would be useful to remind parents of the days where children take part in additional activities throughout the week. This is as follows:

## Nursery Days to Remember!



P.E. is on Tuesday morning. Please send in pumps or trainers every Tuesday and place in the allocated boxes in the Nursery entrance.



Music is on Wednesday morning.

Forest Fun is on Monday afternoon. The children will need wellies every Monday (and a waterproof on wet days!) This is only if your child attends on this afternoon.



Please place 'Forest Fun' kit in the allocated boxes.

## RECEPTION NEWS

What a busy settling in period our Reception children have had. We are so happy to see smiling faces every morning and throughout the day. We have spent this time getting to know your children, finding out their interests and helping them form new friendships. It has surprised us to see how confidently children are accessing the Reception area, venturing into other classrooms and exploring all the activities available.



This week children have been very interested in digging and planting in our outdoor area. They have enjoyed observing the apples and plums being collected from our fruit trees and have helped collect and sort the fruits for the chef in the kitchen to use in one of our desserts. We look forward to tasting our fruit!



Much fun has been had with the building blocks too! Lots of construction work has gone into building numerous pieces, looking at balancing, weight, strength of material and shapes. Super use of teamwork is evident in this picture, they clearly have a plan!



With a café, home corner, dressing up and dolls amongst other things, there has been lots of opportunity for role play too. Out of this lovely role play comes lots of imagination, interesting language and a chance to interact and make new friends. Our role play areas change with our topics and the children's interests so watch this space!

You will have noticed that your child has brought home a reading book this week. Could you please share this with your child and sign their reading record to show you have done so. Reading books will be changed by your child's class teacher every Monday and Thursday but please can you keep them in book bags every day.

Sharing books with your child enables a love of books and reading, which in turn will impact positively on their literacy skills. It introduces them to new words, assists them in learning about the world around them and encourages use of imagination. This is a special time to enjoy together.

### PE, Games and Swimming clarification

From next week (week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> September) children will need to bring their white PE kits in on Monday. Swimming kits are not needed until the 26<sup>th</sup> September. On Fridays, children must come into school dressed in their Games kit with their school uniform in their kit bag.

## Reminders

Please can you ensure your child's morning snack is fruit or fruit-based. Grapes need to be cut lengthways. No nuts please. Food for aftercare needs to go in a separate bag or box.

All items of your child's uniform and PE, Games and Swimming kits need labelling. This includes shoes! It helps us to return lost items to the right owner!

We are very proud of all the children having completed their first full week at King Henry's. We know there will be many tired, tearful children (and parents!) as there is so much to take in in these first few weeks so we wish you all a restful weekend to relax and rejuvenate. We look forward to seeing you on Monday.