

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 11th January 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2018-2019

Issue 13

NURSERY NEWS

Settling In

We would like to begin by wishing our children and parents a very Happy New Year. We would also like to welcome Mrs Whittle to the Nursery team. Mrs Whittle is an experienced teacher and many parents have already had the opportunity to meet her. Mrs Whittle will also be available at Parents' Evening next week should you wish to see her then.

We have been welcoming some new children into Nursery who are settling in extremely well, exploring their new environment and making new friends!

We have sent home 'getting to know me sheets' for the children who have just joined us. Please could parents return these to Nursery if they have not already done so. This information ensures staff have increased knowledge of your child and also forms the beginning of their Learning Journal.

The children have been very enthusiastic whilst discussing their holiday news and any special presents they received from 'Father Christmas'. They have enjoyed sharing their special news with friends during group times. Thank you for taking the time to contribute news from home in the way of photos, special pictures the children have drawn and any information from their time at home over the holiday period. The children all seem to have had a fantastic Christmas!

Just a reminder that we ask for fruit and healthy snacks to be provided in a small named Tupperware box. Alternatively you can pay via parent pay for fruit which is provided by the school. All children are also offered milk and water throughout the day.

Please could we also remind parents to name everything; snack boxes, water bottles 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!

'Winter Wonderland'

We have begun this term by looking at the weather and the elements of Winter.

Our role play area has been transformed into a fantastic 'Winter Wonderland' with polar bears, penguins, snowballs and a glittery array of snowflakes and wintery sparkles. This has enabled the children to discover and talk about the animals who live in cold climates. The children have also been counting snowballs, exploring textures and talking about the different kinds of weather and seasons throughout the year, therefore expanding their knowledge of the world.



Favourite Stories

We shall be continuing this term to use a range of books, stories and rhymes to enhance the children's learning and development. Next week we shall be looking at the story of 'The Polar Bear and the Snow Cloud'. The children will also be listening to a variety of winter stories and also participating in some fantastic wintery activities!

Read, Write, Inc.

The children have not been looking at specific letter sounds this week, but instead have been revising the sounds we have learnt so far. We shall be continuing next week with the letters 'u' and 'b' and if children have any items at home beginning with these letters they are welcome to bring them in to share with us.

Parents' Evening

Just a reminder that Parents' Evening is being held next Tuesday 15th January. Please make an appointment to see your child's key person via the online booking system. Mrs Whittle will also be available and you will have the opportunity to speak with her too, should you wish to do so. If any parents are unable to make this date, they are welcome to discuss an alternative date with their child's key person. The new January starters do not need to book an appointment at this time. Thank you!

Have a lovely weekend,

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION NEWS

Hello to you all and may we take this opportunity to warmly welcome you back to school. We wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to what 2019 will bring. Your children have returned to school exceptionally well, with beaming smiles on their faces and an eagerness to share their exciting Christmas news. It certainly makes our job easier and more enjoyable when we return to such glowing faces on these cold, dark January mornings.

It is no glum time of year for Reception though, as we zoom straight into our Superhero topic! We are sure that you will hear lots about it as we meet various Superhero characters from books and we will be inviting you in to join us for a super afternoon of construction fun, but we will let you know more in a letter very soon! The suspense is amazing!!...

Traction Man, a Super hero doll, was the first character we read about this week. He goes on many adventures, from unblocking a sink to helping a doll out of mud in the garden and all with his faithful friend, the scrubbing brush pet dog! The children really had to use their imagination to fully understand this story but they enjoyed it nonetheless and went about describing him for Literacy and painting a Superhero for Art. Lovely!



In Maths we looked at repeating patterns. We compared patterns on bricks, focusing on colour, shape and size. We then used beads, bricks and colouring pencils to make our own repeated patterns. The children loved this and some of them are trying to do more complex patterns. At home, this is a fun thing to do with children as it can be done with any item and in any degree of complexity, for example with cutlery; knife-fork-spoon, knife -fork -spoon.... or lego bricks; red-yellow-green-blue, red-yellow-green-blue. Some children are managing two things, others three or more so gauge where your child is and go from there.



As always, the classrooms have been set up to compliment the learning and the topic. The children have dressing up clothes, Superhero dens, a doctors surgery, small world areas involving slime and baddies. The Hotlines has been ringing and there have been some lovely "independent" notes written. It is great to see the children, especially boys, who can be reluctant, eagerly scribbling messages about 'Joker' or 'Harley Quinn' on Post-Its! We think it is fair to say that we have kicked off the new year well and in style-

KABOOM!

Reminders

We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday evening, (15th January, 4pm - 7:30pm)**, for Parent's Evening. This will give you the opportunity to spend 10 minutes with your child's teacher, discussing how they are pastorally and academically. If you have any concerns regarding the recent reports or any other issue, this is a perfect time to address it. **Bookings can be made online through the Parent Booking System.**

Please make sure every item brought in to school with your child is **named** clearly so that it can be found and returned to the correct person in the eventuality that it is left in the wrong place.

Please send only a small, healthy snack in for break time - we suggest a piece of fruit, as the children only get a 15-minute play time to eat and unwind.

Forest Fun will resume on Friday afternoons. A gentle reminder to send in a warm coat and some welly boots so the children can stay warm outdoors! They will be kept in their Games kits again this term so there aren't too many bags and to reduce the time taken getting changed and unchanged.

To help our ongoing Superhero plans, please can we ask you to send any items of rubbish to school so that we can up-cycle it by junk modelling with the children. Egg boxes, shoe boxes, kitchen rolls, cereal boxes etc all make fantastic Superhero buildings when given love and attention! Many thanks for your help with this.

We look forward to a fantastic term. Have a wonderful weekend and we will see you soon.