

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 25th January 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2018-2019

Issue 15

## NURSERY NEWS

It has been a really cold, icy and snowy week at Nursery. The icy weather has also incorporated nicely with our winter theme this week. We have been continuing with the story of 'The Polar Bear and the Snow Cloud' and there has been lots of talk about ice and snow. The children have enjoyed a week of frosty cooking activities, beginning with special fruity ice lollies using a variety of fruits such as strawberries, bananas and pine-apples. They showcased their fantastic physical skills by chopping up the fruits, then blended them together before freezing to make their special frozen ice lolly.



Nursery have also been experimenting and exploring the effects of freezing and melting. The children began the week by making their own ice, developing an understanding of the process and the changes that occur. They worked together to fill bowls with water, hiding animals inside! They then placed them into the freezer. There was great excitement the next day when the bowls of water became blocks of ice! We had some super language used such as 'solid, slippery, wet, cold, cracked and popped'! The children played with the ice whilst watching it melt and turn back to water. Once the ice started to melt, the animals then miraculously reappeared from inside which caused great delight amongst the children!



## Forest Fun

During our Forest Fun session this week we have thought about how the birds survive during the winter months and whether they would have enough food to eat. The children had great fun making bird food to hang in their gardens for the birds to eat! They mixed a variety of special ingredients with lard, such as raisins, seeds and even cheese, which they thought the birds might enjoy eating. The children had a super time and it enabled them to think about caring for the animals in their environment and also increased their understanding of the world.



This week, the children took part in a fantastic Numeracy activity with the Numicon and some snowmen. They counted buttons onto their snowman and also counted how many buttons they had altogether. There was some super number language used from the children!



## Snack



Thank you to parents for providing healthy fruit and snacks. Please could we ask that if children bring in grapes for their morning snack that they are cut in half due to health and safety reasons. Alternatively, parents can pay via Parent Pay for school fruit. Thank you.

## Read, Write, Inc.

The children have been looking at the letters 'f' and 'e' this week. Once again we have had some wonderful items brought in from home and the children have enjoyed discussing and sorting these items into the correct sound boxes. We shall be continuing next week with the letters 'l' and 'h'. If children have any items at home beginning with these letters they are welcome to bring them in to share with us. Please can any items or toys from home be related to our topics or for our sound boxes only. Children are beginning to bring alternative toys from home which can result in them becoming upset if these toys get lost or broken. Many thanks for your understanding.

## Chinese New Year

Next week we shall be celebrating Chinese New Year. We have another fun week of activities planned for the children to promote their learning and development. Thank you so much to any parents who have offered to contribute items of interest for the children -this will also help to enable them to experience the Chinese Culture. Please speak to a member of staff if we have any more parents who may like to make any contributions, or even talk to the children about Chinese New Year. Many thanks, we do really appreciate it!

The day of Chinese New Year will be Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February. To make this day an extra special experience for the children, we thought it would be lovely for them to come to Nursery wearing a red t-shirt or jumper instead of their usual school tops. Please can children continue to wear their Nursery joggers as normal. We have our PE session on this day, therefore the usual Nursery joggers will still need to be worn as this is the most appropriate clothing for this session. Thank you!



Have a lovely weekend

The Nursery Team

## RECEPTION NEWS



Hello. With the weather taking a very cold turn, you can rest assured that your children are kept warm and safe at school. Staff always ensure the children put blazers and coats on and where possible, gloves and hats too. The classrooms are kept warm and so if children do feel the heat, they are free to take jumpers off whilst indoors. We would ask that you try to keep outdoor wear in line with school uniform as much as possible so that they still look smart and pretty please can you label EVERYTHING!

Another busy week to tell you about. Last Friday, we ventured out to the Memorial Park for Forest Fun and this will become an ongoing part of our plans from now on. The children have been told how to stay safe whilst walking to the park and how to behave when they are in the park. The first session was a success and the children loved it, playing hide and seek in bushes and finding huge sticks that became an array of imaginative things. Forest Fun is a great chance for children to explore outside the confines of a classroom and whilst we plan some great activities for them, it is actually far more valuable for them to take risks, play, climb, explore and just enjoy being in the great outdoors.

In Literacy, the children have continued writing about Super Worm and have produced some fantastic 'MISSING!' posters that show off some wonderful descriptive language. With encouragement to use Fred Fingers to spell words, they are demonstrating more and more confidence with their independent writing.

In Maths the children are still measuring and they have learnt about **weight**. Our Maths sessions are always kept as practical as possible so the children develop a love and engagement for the subject from a young age. So, the weighing scales have been out and the children have enjoyed looking at how the scales go up and down because items are lighter and heavier. Descriptive and comparative language has been in abundance which is just what we want! Outdoors, the children were encouraged to be the scales themselves, using their arms to show the weight of the items they held.



The children have been learning about the artist Roy Lichtenstein in topic art lessons. He produced a lot of Pop style art inspired by comic strips and newspaper clippings. They have set about producing their own interpretation of the famous art work, by painting bold 'Superhero' words, such as POP, BANG and KABOOM! They then worked on the backgrounds and we think they have done a jolly good job!

As always the learning environments are set up with great supporting activities to encourage thinking, problem solving, independent writing and creative development. We hope the children are coming home as happy and excited as the staff are!!



## Reminders:

- \* We are looking forward to making 'Super Veg' next week. Thank you for all the vegetables that have already been sent in but unfortunately, some are looking a little worse for wear and we may need another one. For those of you have not yet done so, please can a vegetable be sent in with your child next week.
- \* We are excited about seeing some of you on Thursday afternoon for a fun-filled time of creative construction. We need Superhero worlds for our children to play with and we are relying on YOU to build them.
- \* Remember that Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February is SUPERHERO DAY! Please send your child in their Games kit as always but then send in a Superhero costume for them to change into afterwards.