

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 19th October 2018

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2018-2019

Issue 6

NURSERY NEWS

'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes'

The children have been enjoying our current story of 'The little Red Hen'. We have talked about kindness and sharing, as that is also a theme throughout this fantastic story! The children have been discussing how bread is made and the ingredients needed,



while also talking about helping each other, as Little Red Hen could not find anybody to help her make the bread. There has also been a lovely aroma of fresh bread throughout Nursery as the children have been making bread rolls during their cooking session this week.

They enjoyed mixing, kneading and rolling the bread dough before watching it rise, and cook it in the oven.



There has also been a Bakery in the role-play area this week where the children have enjoyed selling bread, writing orders and using the tills to pay for the bread! There has been some wonderful creativity and language used and the children have also used their imaginative skills to bake

bread and make pizzas and cakes. Lovely!

The children have also been learning about and developing an understanding of changes over time throughout the seasons, investigating and exploring the fantastic Autumn colours and the texture of natural items. They have also been exploring and learning about sounds and textures, listening to the crinkling and rustling of the leaves, feeling the smoothness of apples and the spikiness of pine cones! The children also looked closely at the Autumnal and natural materials through the magnifying glasses.



The children have also had messy fun this week and had a fantastic time carving pumpkins and making faces and shapes in them. They used their physical skills and a range of tools to scoop out the inside while exploring the texture and also the aroma of the pumpkins. The finished products were super!



We have had a new addition to our Nursery resources this week in the form of a large music wall with a variety of dustbin lids, pots and pans, cups and spoons. The children have been exploring and experimenting with sounds and listening to the different sound each item makes. It has been an extremely noisy outdoor experience. A super learning opportunity!



Harvest

All the children joined together for their Harvest celebrations in the hall this week, singing a variety of Harvest songs, including the scarecrow song which has been a firm favourite amongst the Nursery children. We would like to say a huge thank you to all parents for contributing donations of food during this Harvest week.

Read, Write, Inc.

On return to Nursery after half term we shall begin to look more closely at specific letters with the children, expanding on literacy skills which we have been introducing since September. During the first week back we shall be looking at the letters 'm' and 'a'. If children have any items at home beginning with these letters they are welcome to bring them in to share at group time.

Zoolab Visit

On our return after half term, Nursery are having a special treat with a visit from Zoolab. This is a company specialising in a range of animals and is a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a range of new and unusual animals. The theme of our visit is based upon 'The Gruffalo Story', therefore we shall also be reading this story to the children throughout the course of the week! This will be a super experience for the children and will also develop their active learning.

Holiday Activity Sheets

We hope all children and parents enjoy half term, whether they are attending our holiday club or have other exciting activities planned. We value parental involvement, therefore you and your children are welcome to contribute to the holiday activity sheet which has been sent home this week, if you wish. This can then be included in children's Learning Journals on their return to Nursery after half term. This holiday information can be in the form of photos, drawings or even items of interest such as cinema tickets. It is always lovely to hear about the super activities which children participate in during the school holidays and also provides a lovely link between home and Nursery!

Many thanks for your continued support and we hope you all have a lovely holiday.

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION NEWS



We are at the end of the first half of the Autumn term and what a busy, fun-filled and exciting time we have had. We could not be more proud of how well the children have settled into school life at King Henry's and have enjoyed seeing friendships formed, new skills learnt and confidence acquired. Most importantly we have found seeing the progression each and every child has made on a personal and academic level since September so rewarding.



To end our Marvellous Me topic this week we had a reflexologist come to visit, Mrs Yarker. She talked us through how Reflexology works, brought in a variety of essential oils to smell and did mini treatments on each child (that wanted one)! The classrooms were filled with such relaxing scents from the oils, we wonder if you noticed a difference in your child at home!

Also we went on a bone hunt in our Forest Fun session!! We had to find all the separate bones to piece together to make a skeleton. We were impressed with all the ways children suggested we look after our bones and also the answers given to why we need bones at all. You may have read already in a Parentmail sent out that Forest Fun is now moving to Fridays. Could you please send Forest Fun clothing in on this day instead. Also, your child will not need their school uniform at all as they will stay in their Games kit all day.



Our final 6 letters of the half term this week learnt in Phonics are j, v, w, x, y and z. Now that all the single letter sounds have been learnt, we have observed many children putting these sounds together to create simple words around the classroom, using magnetic letters, alphabet printing and flash cards.

It is wonderful to see children choosing to do this because they WANT to, and the proud look they give when they show their friends and teachers the word they have made!



We started our Maths work for the week with a challenge - to make a chair using unifix cubes. Children worked in pairs. This was not only a lesson on problem solving and team work but also perseverance!! It was lovely to see children rise to the task, despite it not being straightforward, and to see the determination shown to make the end product. Following on from this, we looked at comparing groups of objects using language such as more, less and fewer. We counted how many objects were in each group, found the matching number and ordered the groups. We also introduced estimating (making a good guess) in our carpet sessions.



Important Notices

Our topic for the next half term is Celebrations! For the first week back we are learning about Diwali. If you have anything at home you would like to send in to share about your Diwali celebrations, we would love it!

There are still some children not bringing coats in. Please do send a coat in every day, especially on a Friday for Forest Fun, as we don't want blazers to get muddy.

We hope that you all have a restful half term break, whatever you may be doing. Thank you for your support in these past weeks and we look forward to seeing you in November.