

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 9th November 2018

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2018-2019

Issue 7

NURSERY NEWS

A very warm welcome back to all children and parents, we hope you all had a relaxing and exciting half term break. The children have been very enthusiastic whilst discussing any holiday news and they have enjoyed sharing this with their friends during group time. It was lovely to hear about the adventures the children have had over the holidays. Thank you to parents for contributing to the holiday activity sent home, this has enabled us to share these experiences and we have received some fantastic photos!

The children have been very excited whilst talking about the fireworks they may have recently seen, and any special firework events they attended. One of our children described the fireworks she saw as 'rainbow coloured and gorgeous'!

We have incorporated this into our activities and the children have enjoyed making firework pictures and experimenting with colours, using paint and lots of glitter! This has resulted in some fantastic colourful and sparkly creations! We have had some fantastic use of language such as Bang, Whizz, and Zoom. The children have also been making sparkly rockets which may hopefully zoom into the sky!



Some of you may also be attending the school firework event which is being this Saturday, 10th November.

Continuing along the theme of fireworks, the children have also added glitter to our black play dough to make the impression of fireworks in a sparkly night sky. They have enjoyed looking at sparkles and bright colours contrasting against the dark coloured play dough.



We have also been celebrating Diwali this week in Nursery and learning all about this special festival. The children have been making their own Diwali cards by designing and decorating a candle for the front of their card. Super work!

Next week we shall be continuing along the theme of 'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes' and will be looking at the story of 'The Enormous Turnip', with many fun and varied activities planned for the children. Please can children bring a vegetable to Nursery on Monday next week, together with a small named container with a lid. We shall be making delicious vegetable soup and they will need a container to take it home. Thank you.



If your child has been offered a place in the football club which has now begun on a Thursday lunchtime, please can pumps or trainers be sent to Nursery on this day. Thank you.

Zoolab Visit

The children had an amazing time when we had a visit from 'Zoolab' on Thursday. The company specialise in a range of unusual and exotic animals and this was a fantastic experience for the children. We shall give further information based on this visit and include photos in next weeks Newsletter!

Read, Write, Inc.

The children have begun to look at 'm' and 'a' this week. They have enjoyed looking at items brought in from home and thinking of items around Nursery beginning with these letters. They have also looked at the correct formation for these letter sounds. We shall be continuing next week with the letters 's' and 'd'. Once again, if children have any items at home beginning with these letters they are welcome to bring them in to share at group time.

Christmas Sing Song.

We apologise if some of you have not thought about Christmas yet! We thought you may like to know in advance the date for this year's Nursery Christmas Sing Song in order for parents to keep this date free. Our Sing Song this year is being held on Wednesday 5th December at 9:15am. Invitations and further information will be given nearer the time.

Have a lovely weekend

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION NEWS

Welcome Back!

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a wonderful break and that you found the chance to relax for a while. The children have come back to school with lots of exciting tales of all the things that they have seen and done during the two weeks, with fireworks being the most popular topic of conversation! This has inspired them to do some wonderful independent pictures and paintings, using different techniques to recreate what they have seen.



All the Reception staff have been very impressed with how much your children have grown up over the break. They are listening with greater care to instructions and carrying out what they have been asked to do, far more quickly. This is brilliant! Now that all the hard work of getting to know their new classmates, teachers and routines is complete, this half term should see your child feeling more confident coming to school in the mornings.



On Thursday we had a very different day at school. We took part in 'Outdoor Classroom Day' this is an initiative that encourages schools to use school playgrounds and fields for learning. The underlying principle is that when learning is taken

outdoors there is a powerful positive impact on children. It is believed that it fosters a real excitement for learning and creates lasting happy memories. Being play based, it teaches critical life skills such as problem solving, teamwork and creativity too. A huge win, win! Thank you to Mrs Cooper for organising it!

Our new topic this term is **Celebrations**, which links in so well into all the festivals that happen at this time of year. In **Topic and Literacy**, we have been learning about Diwali. We listened to the Hindu story of Rama and Sita and how thankfully, good overcame evil. We have been making and decorating our own diya lamps from salt dough. Light is significant in Hinduism because it signifies purity, goodness, good luck and power.



We have been very pleased with how the children are picking up the phonics sounds that we are introducing in **RWI**. Many can now start to hear some sounds in their words and are beginning to push sounds together too. They have also been busy learning how to write their full name, forming each letter correctly. This is such a vital skill to master and one they love to use every chance they can!



In **Maths**, we are consolidating our understanding of numbers to 20. Looking specifically at number order, we are using comparative vocabulary to determine which numbers are 'more than' or 'less than' than a given number. Also learning to recognise and write our numerals, we are beginning to correctly label our sets by amount. We have found out that to make our counting accurate, it helps to put everything into a long line. This stops us double counting or missing some out!

With Christmas on the way the children are starting to learn their songs for their Christmas play, so you may hear some snatches of them at home! Every child will be given a part in the play and we will be asking you to supply the appropriate costume soon. Thank you in advance for this!

Up and coming events



The **PA Firework night** is this Saturday and we hope to see as many of you there as possible! It is a great night out for every member of the family and the fireworks are always amazing! The children love meeting and playing with their friends there, as well as, getting glitter tattoos and something good to eat too. All monies raised are used solely for school projects. Instruments, outdoor play equipment and special sports equipment have all been bought by the PA. They are always on the look out for more helpers so even if you can only spare an hour, your help would be much appreciated to assist in the setting up or clearing up of the event. It is a great way of meeting other parents too! Please contact the PA on pa@khviii.net.

Reception phonics evening is this Tuesday from 5 - 6pm. This is an extremely informative evening that sets out to explain the Read Write Inc. scheme that we use in school to develop reading and writing skills. It will give you a broader understanding of phonics and help you support your child at home. Our Reception Parent's Evening is in January.

Requests

Now that the children are settled into life in Reception, please could we politely ask parents to say goodbye in the mornings before the willow tunnel. It can unsettle children already on the playground to see someone else's Mummy or Daddy there. It also makes it tricky for the staff on duty to safely monitor the children playing when parents are coming and going. Thank you so much for your understanding.

Well done to all of those who remembered the change of **Forest Fun** to a Friday. Hopefully, we will find it easier having fewer bags to bring school, especially now that the children can stay in their Games kit all day.

It is starting to get cooler now so we recommend that your children wear a thermal base layer under their games kit, as well as a full tracksuit and warm sports top. As the temperatures drop further, it is a good idea to bring coats in each day as blazers do not keep chests warm.

Finally, please could you check that all the PE kit and Games kit that your child brings home is actually theirs! It is very easy to muddle up belongings and some children have had items go missing! Thank you!

We wish you all a wonderful weekend!

The Reception team