

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 16th November 2018

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2018-2019

Issue 8

## NURSERY NEWS

### Zoolab.

We would like to begin by saying what a wonderful time the children had during a visit from Zoolab last Thursday. The presenter involved the children in a story which was based on the Gruffalo. The children thoroughly enjoyed looking at and touching the variety of animals which were introduced to them as the story emerged. The children and staff also learnt some amazing facts such as; a tarantula has 8 eyes, a millipede has 200 legs, and a snake has 500 bones. Other animals the children saw were a cockroach, gerbil and a giant snail! We had some super comments from the children and one child referred to the tarantula as 'pretty'!

As promised, here are some photos.



### 'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes'

Our story theme for this week has been 'The Enormous Turnip' and the children have enjoyed a variety of fun and exciting activities, while also discussing vegetables and how they grow. The children have loved looking at the story and discussing the size of the turnip together with thinking of words to describe it, such as gigantic, large, enormous! We have also talked about being kind and helping one another as the story suggests, with everyone working together to help pull the enormous turnip out of the ground.

The Nursery environment has had a lovely aroma of the smell of vegetables this week with the children helping to chop vegetables and make tasty soup which they have taken home to eat! Thank you to parents for contributing a lovely variety of vegetables for us to use in this process.



Continuing with the theme of growing and vegetables, the children planted cress seeds during an outdoor activity while talking about what conditions they need to grow. We have observed them through the week before sending them home and this should result in some lovely cress. This will also help the children to develop an understanding of growth and changes over time.



### Forest Fun

We plan to enjoy 'messy time' during Forest Fun next week. Please could you send in waterproofs together with the child's usual wellies for this session next Monday. This is only if your child attends on this afternoon.

### Spare Clothing

If you have any jogging bottoms at home which are no longer being used please could they be donated to Nursery. We are running short of spare joggers so this will be very much appreciated. Thank you.

We have had a number of items go missing in Nursery, such as snack boxes and clothing. Please could you check at home to ensure you have not mistakenly picked up an item belonging to somebody else. If so, can we please ask that you return it to Nursery. Thank you.

### Christmas Sing Along

We have begun to give out letters regarding our Christmas performance. Please note, this will be held on Wednesday 5th December at 9:15am. Some of you may have seen the start time as 9:30, although this has now been changed to 9:15am. Thank you.

### Read, Write, Inc.

The children have been looking at 's' and 'd' this week. 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 have also looked at the correct formation for these letter sounds. We shall be continuing next week with the letters 't' and 'i'. Once again, if children have any items at home beginning with these letters they are welcome to bring them in to share with us.

Have a lovely weekend,

The Nursery Team

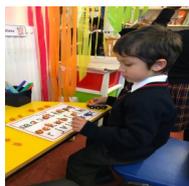
## RECEPTION NEWS

Dear Parent,  
Another fun-filled week has flown by in Reception, with lots of learning and activities packed in to it! The main theme this week has been **Children In Need** and **Pudsey Bear!** In Topic, yummy cookies have been baked, sporting Pudsey's face. Children have been engaged in mixing, rolling and kneading dough, experiencing how ingredients change when they are combined together and heated up. The outcome was delicious!! Cooking was followed by writing up the list of ingredients that they had used. The children utilised their Fred sound knowledge to identify some phonemes that they could hear in the words, recording these graphemes on their Pudsey sheet. There was some super work, with even words like 'butter' almost being spelt correctly! Fantastic! Friday saw us finishing the week off in our pyjamas—well we were quite tired by then! Everyone thought it was so funny eating lunch dressed ready for bed! Thank you for your donations to Children in Need!



Literacy sees us completing the first set of RWi. sounds. We are now experts in sh, ch, th, ng and nk! Hopefully! If you have any time at home, you could reinforce this new found knowledge by asking your child to spell or read simple words containing these sounds. In the next few weeks your child will be assessed on all the sounds that they know and on their ability to blend them together. After this they will be placed into fluid phonics groups so that we can tailor our teaching exactly to what your child needs next.

Thank you to all of you who attended the **Reception Phonics Evening** on Tuesday. We hope that you found it useful and informative. It is a great help to your child if they are being taught at school and home in the same way. If you do have any further queries then please talk to your form teacher.



With our new approach to Maths focusing on 'mastering' a skill by experiencing and practising it over a number of weeks in different contexts, the children have been continuing to deepen their knowledge of numbers to 20. After listening to the story 'Maisy goes camping', the children were challenged to count up how many animals were in the tent and how many there would be, if one more climbed in. We were impressed with how a few of the children could work the answer out in their head! Moving on to ladybirds, the children started to combine two sets, counting up the spots on either wing. Some even wrote the corresponding number sentence, using the correct numerals and symbols. Great!

Reception have had a splashing time in swimming this week. They were trying to put their heads under the water and gain water confidence. Look at how well they are doing!



### Notices

Your child will have brought home a note informing you of the part that they are playing in the Christmas nativity 'A King is Born'. Please could you supply a suitable outfit in the next couple of weeks. Every child will have their own role and some of those roles are speaking ones. If your child does have words to learn, we would **really** appreciate it if you practise them regularly at home, making sure that they are using a clear, slow and loud voice. It would be a huge help to us as there is never enough time to practise!

Another uniform check plea please! There are still children who think that others may have picked up their belongings—it is amazing how far Games and P.E kit can travel across a room or even across entire buildings! Please could you check that everything that your child brings home is theirs!

Clearly named school hats, gloves and scarves may be needed soon as the temperatures drop. We try and train the children to keep their gloves in their pockets when they don't need them and their hat pushed into their coat sleeve when they take it off, to help keep them safe.

Thank you to those of you who have managed to say 'goodbye' to your child before the willow tunnel. It is making a great difference to the staff on duty on the playground. If your child is still finding this a challenge, it may help to talk through the morning drop off the night before so that they know what to expect.

Thank you for all your support!

Have a lovely weekend!

The Reception team