

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 13th September 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

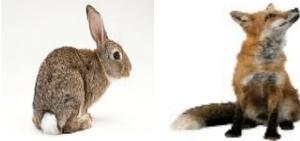
Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 1

NURSERY NEWS

Welcome to our first Nursery News of the year! We would like to begin by saying how beautifully our new children are settling into Nursery life! They have been exploring their new environment and making new friends, while participating in a range of many activities. Our existing group of children from last year have also settled back in, they have been very welcoming and are enjoying getting to know their new friends. We are extremely proud of all our Nursery children!

All parents should have now received information regarding their child's new key group and key person. If parents have any further questions regarding this, please speak to a member of Nursery staff. Our key group names are Rabbits & Foxes.



We have had a lovely week getting to know one another and talking about 'ourselves and our families'. The children have made some super paper plate faces of themselves! Thank you to parents for sending in their family photos, please could any further photos be brought into Nursery as soon as possible to enable us to discuss these photos with the children.



We also hope to make a lovely 'family display' for the children to look at. This will help to promote their communication and language skills as they discuss the photos whilst talking about members of their family!



There was great excitement this week when our new children were introduced to our Nursery pets. William and Kate the tortoises! The children enjoyed watching the tortoises on the carpet and asked questions such as "what food do they like?" and "do they have teeth?" Our children who were with us last year tried hard to answer these questions too, as they know the tortoises so well. Super!



The children have been exploring their environment, both indoors and outdoors. They have especially enjoyed our new 'mud kitchen', where they have been making super mud pies and having an extremely messy and sensory experience which is wonderful for young children's learning!



Another popular activity has been our new large sandpit in the Nursery outdoor play area. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting sand between their toes and really getting stuck into this experience. We have had many comments from the children saying they feel like they are at the beach! We have had many laughs and giggles and the children have worked together to build, dig pour and scoop the sand. Super!

We would like to remind parents to name everything; snack boxes, water bottles, wellington boots, bags, 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. Could children also have a complete set of spare clothing in their bags as they may require a change of clothes throughout the session. This could be due to many reasons including messy activities and water play. Thank you!

Please check your child's named tray every day, there may be letters, any messages, or Nursery information such as weekly food menus which parents may want to complete and send back. If parents have a message for staff written via their child's yellow communication diary please hand this direct to staff or place in the red tray on the signing in desk. Those children who attend breakfast club will have their bag checked by Nursery staff each morning, who will then take any information which has been sent in.

On PE and Forest Fun days please can parents place pumps and wellingtons in the allocated boxes inside the cloakroom. If children attend breakfast club then their bags will be checked for these items on arrival at Nursery. As children have now been allocated key groups, please place items in the animal box depending on your child's key group, either the Fox or Rabbit box. This is the same procedure for snack boxes, please can parents place snack containers in the appropriate boxes depending on which animal group they are in. This makes it easier for children to recognise their own snack as they get familiar with which animal group they are in, therefore, also promoting independence during snack times.



Please could morning snacks be in the form of healthy fruit in a small named Tupperware container. Could we ask that if children bring grapes to Nursery, please can these be sliced in half. This is for health and safety reasons and the safety of all children. Alternatively, parents can pay via parent pay for school fruit. Please could all children also have a water bottle in school.

During this term we will be using a range of rhymes and stories to enhance the children's learning and development. Our theme over the next few weeks will be 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. If your child would like to bring any toys or books relating to this story we would love to share them in Nursery.

Tapestry

We hope parents are enjoying our new online learning journal 'Tapestry'. If any parents have any questions regarding this then please do not hesitate to ask. We hope parents are enjoying seeing pictures of their children having fun and gaining valuable experiences throughout their Nursery day!

Finally, we thought it would be useful to remind parents of the days in which children take part in additional activities throughout the week. This is as follows:

Nursery Days to Remember!



P.E. is on Thursday morning.
Please send in pumps or trainers every Thursday and place in the allocated boxes in the Nursery entrance.



Music is on Wednesday morning.



Forest Fun is on Monday afternoon.
The children will need wellies every Monday (and a waterproof on wet days!) This is only if your child attends on this afternoon.
Please place 'Forest Fun' kit in the allocated boxes.

We would like to finish by reiterating how beautifully our new children are settling into Nursery. They are all very happy and beginning to form new friendships, which is really lovely to see!

Have a lovely weekend,

The Nursery Team.

RECEPTION NEWS

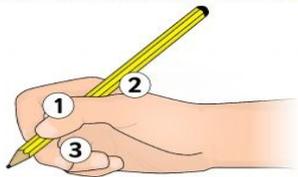


Dear Parents,
A very warm welcome to our first Early Years newsletter! We have all so enjoyed getting to know your children over the last few days and are already impressed with how much they are learning about their new environment. Lots of children seem seasoned experts at hanging up their blazers, coats and bags in the correct places and remembering where their snack boxes and book bags go, too. Very impressive, for children so young and new to Reception! Self help skills are always prized by staff!

The children have settled in extremely quickly this year. We had the fewest tears ever and the most smiley faces ever! Thank you for helping prepare them for this big new adventure. The children have been spending their first few days familiarising themselves with their environment and it's routines and systems. There has been much extended play in many different areas of learning. Children have been painting, building, using playdough, dressing up, playing in the water, having their first PE lesson and music lesson, to name but a few! Understandably they may come home totally exhausted at the end of the day! If you ask them what they have done that day at school and they say 'nothing!', it certainly isn't the case! They may just be too tired to tell you! We have also been gauging where your child is in the key areas of Maths and English so that we can start to plan their next learning steps.

Read Write Inc. The children have started their phonics lessons by being introduced to the school scheme. They will be learning a letter sound each session and how to form it correctly. The sounds we have covered this week are m,a,s and d. If your child is already competent with their sounds, it is still very useful to 'over learn'. This enables children to very deeply embed knowledge to make them 'super speedy'. This helps reading and writing fluency. We are also encouraging children to pinch their pencil (to make it say ow!), with the aim of having a 'one finger and thumb' grip. If you can reinforce this at home, it would be much appreciated. Activities at home like threading pasta or picking up and sorting pegs or small beads help to strengthen finger muscles.

How to Hold a Pencil



1. Put your thumb and forefinger just above the cone shaped part of the pencil.
2. Let the pencil rest between your thumb and forefinger.
3. Then put your middle finger underneath for support.

In **Numeracy** we have been familiarising children with number by going on number hunts around the environment and threading a given number of beads on a string.



Uniform It is always amazing to see how much more grown up children look in their school uniform than in their home clothes! We are taking lots of care to ensure that clothing is being looked after as much as possible in school. Please do ensure that you have clearly named all uniform and kit (including socks) as it is extremely difficult to identify the owner of unnamed items. Children can become upset when they are not sure whether something is actually theirs or not. It is also time consuming fathoming out whose trousers, skirts etc are whose. Thank you.

Snacks Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring that your child is given a healthy snack each day. To help us further, please could you have any fruit you send in already cut up, for example apples and grapes (which need to be halved). Unfortunately, we can not cut up fruit, as it takes away from teaching time. To make it easier for the children to carry and fetch their snack, please could both the snack and drink be placed in a lunchbox. It is easier for the children to recognise and only one thing to collect and carry, too. If your child is going into Aftercare, they need an additional snack box to keep this food separate from their day snack or it will get eaten all at the same time! This bag is put on the bottom shelf of the trolley. There are so many new systems to learn and we appreciate your patience and co-operation.



P.E, Games and Swimming Lots of children have been trying to be independent when getting dressed and undressed for these lessons. This not only makes our job more straight forward, but it also means that there is more remaining time to teach the lesson. If you haven't had a chance to practise these key skills over the holidays, we would appreciate it if you started to show and encourage your child now. They are so proud of themselves when they can be independent and it makes them feel more confident too! Well done to them all!

Please could the children bring in a baby photo for Monday.

Finally, thank you to those of you who have returned your Tapestry consent forms.

Have a lovely weekend after the first full week in school.

The Reception Team :)

