

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 20th September 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 2

NURSERY NEWS

'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes'

The children have been very busy this week discussing the favourite story, 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. This story is proving to be a big hit in Nursery and the children have enjoyed a variety of fun and exciting activities. They have been exploring the Goldilocks story box and using their imagination to recite the story with the story box figures, together with listening to the story and engaging so much with all activities on offer! The



children have also been talking about the people who live in their houses, just like in the Bears house. This has coincided nicely with our recent discussions surrounding themselves and their families!



The children have participated in a super threading activity and created some amazing bears by threading wool through the holes. They displayed fantastic fine motor skills and concentration. Super!

The children have also made porridge to eat during their cooking session whilst choosing whether to add honey to their bowl of porridge, "Yummy"!



Forest Fun

Our Forest Fun session this week has been fantastic, with the children exploring and investigating bear footprints! There was great excitement when they found the footprints hidden around the forest area and they used their numeracy skills to count the footprints, which they found. They decided the bear must be really big to have left such large prints! Hopefully the footprints will lead the way to finding the bear!



We shall continue with the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' next week before moving onto another exciting story. Once again, if your child would like to bring any toys or books relating to this story we would love to share them in Nursery.

Thank you very much to parents for sending in special family photos for the children to share in Nursery. It has been a delight sharing these during our group times and becoming familiar with children's extended family members. We have made a wonderful display of these photos in Nursery, which the children are enjoying, admiring and talking about with their friends, while also pointing out which are their special photos!



We have introduced 'snack mats' which the children have begun to use during morning snack time. The children made these themselves, therefore helping to promote their own individuality and independence, also helping with name recognition and Literacy skills at snack times. May we remind parents of the importance of slicing grapes in half at snack time due to health and safety reasons. Thank you. Once again, please could we remind parents to name everything; snack boxes, water bottles and all clothing including shoes and wellington boots. 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!

As the cold weather approaches, please could all children come to Nursery wearing a coat, as we do go outside during the day. We are currently promoting independence and helping the children find the correct coat on their peg and encouraging them to hang it back up once we have come inside. It may help if parents could tie a piece of ribbon onto the standard coat hook which is inside the collar of all school coats. This would enable your child to hang their coat onto the peg and make it easier for them by using their ribbon. This may also help children to recognise which coat is theirs, as they will get to know which ribbon they have. Thank you in anticipation for your support with this.



We hope parents are continuing to enjoy our online learning journal, Tapestry. It is super to see observations of children at home as this provides an excellent link between home and school. Thank you to parents for contributing to Tapestry, whether it be observations from home or comments regarding observations from Nursery. If parents haven't yet activated their account then please do so to be able to see these fantastic observations, photo's and learning experiences.

Finally, we would like to say once again how beautifully all children have settled into Nursery. They are all extremely happy and forming new friendships, which is lovely to see.

Date for your diary!

Thursday 17th October - Parents' Evening (more information nearer the time)

Have a lovely weekend,
The Nursery Team

RECEPTION NEWS

Dear Parents,

Another week has shot by and we continue to be impressed by our new Reception cohort. They have had lots more new experiences this week and have taken them all in their stride! This is a credit to you all as parents. We have been so lucky with the continued good weather and the children have benefited by spending lots of time outside, extending their learning by developing problem solving, imagination and, most importantly, social skills, as they have been building, digging, playing and doing reinforcement activities with staff in our outdoor areas.

Swimming started in earnest this week as children were introduced properly to the training pool at Swallows. The aim of the first session is to roughly assess the ability and previous experience of the children so that they can be put into groups moving forward. This is so successful at enabling children to make the best progress over the year. It allows teaching to pin point their next learning step. If your child has had very little experience in water, they will be placed in an extra small group which is nurturing and supportive, reducing any stress that they may have otherwise felt. Children may be moved between the groups as they become more confident during the year.

Excitingly this week, we had a special visitor as we started our topic on 'All About Me'. Mrs Sidhu, brought her baby son Hugo, in to meet the children and think about what young babies need and how they are looked after by adults. We were truly amazed at the questions and knowledge that the children demonstrated. They nearly all managed to remember the question that they wanted to ask and verbalise it in a clear and audible voice. This is such a mature characteristic!

'When some babies are born you can't touch their heads, they are not joined together properly.'

'When the baby is crying do you have to get it a dummy?'

'Babies don't have rubbish food like sweets and chocolate.'

What incredible ideas!



In Music this half term, children are exploring instruments and finding different ways of playing them, experimenting with the sounds they can make. As the weeks progress, they are aiming to use them with increased control and rhythm.



We had our first Forest Fun lesson last week and the children loved exploring the area at the bottom of the field, climbing and jumping off the logs, looking at nature up close and making mixtures in the empty fire pit.

We are started introducing our children to Jennie Jigsaw, who is our PSHE teddy. She is used a lot in our lessons and is often passed around for children to share their thoughts and experiences with the class. This week we thought about what we could do if we felt sad and the children shared their ideas with such sensitivity.



The Jigsaw Approach is underpinned by mindfulness. Mindfulness is being able to observe your own thoughts and feelings as they happen, in the present moment, applying no judgement. Jigsaw teaches children to understand their thoughts and feelings, through lessons and calm times, helping them to develop their awareness, and become mindful human beings.

In Reception, children cover 'Being Me In My World'. Topics, include a sense of belonging, welcoming others and being part of a school community, wider community, and global community. They also think about how to work and socialise with others, and how to voice their thoughts. 'Celebrating Difference' then focuses on similarities and differences, teaching about diversity, friendships, and conflict. Children learn to accept everyone's right to difference'.

In Literacy, have been looking at the letters, t, i, n, and p and the children will be asked to practise these letters again over the weekend.

In Numeracy, we have been reinforcing number work to 10, with children making physical number lines and asked which number is missing, where would this number fit and which is bigger or smaller?

Finally, we all enjoyed wearing our jeans today! Thank you for all the monies that you donated to such a good cause.



Have a lovely week-
the sunshine!

end and enjoy



The Reception Team