

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 4th October 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 4

## NURSERY NEWS

### 'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes'

We are continuing along the theme of favourite stories and have begun to read and talk about 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children have been very engaged in many fun based activities to promote and enhance their learning and development.



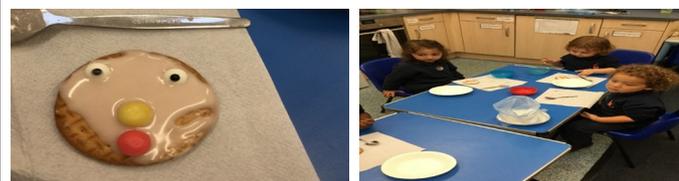
Construction has been a theme for this week with the builder's construction site in our outdoor area proving popular. Children have been working together and helping each other construct houses using building bricks, sticks and straw. The children have dressed in hard hats, and hi- viz jackets while building their structures and deciding which houses are the strongest! During our Forest Fun session, the children have been once again exploring the natural environment and have also thoroughly enjoyed building their very own houses using sticks, straw and bricks. They worked together to construct the houses and then tried to blow them down! Super fun was had by all!



The children have also been experimenting with a range of media and materials whilst making paper plate pigs. They have chosen and made their own spectacular designs and looked at a variety of colours and shading such as dark and light pink. They decorated their pig with cotton wool textures before painting it a shade of pink, and then chose some ears and a nose! They also decided whether their pig was happy or sad and why they felt this way.



As our 'bear biscuits' were such a big hit with the children last week we made some more super biscuits in the shape of a pig this week. The children have shown wonderful creativity while designing their very own 'piggy' biscuit! They decorated their biscuits beautifully using icing and decorations. Whilst spreading the icing, the children showed fantastic physical skills and they also made super choices when selecting which items they wanted to use to create their pig, deciding where to place the eyes, nose etc. This also prompted super discussions about a variety of colours, shapes and sizes.



### Library Visits

As the children have now settled, we have introduced weekly visits to our school library. Each key group has their own time slot to visit the library and spend quality quiet time looking at books and stories. The children listen to and join in with stories and poems, they then have the opportunity to explore the library and independently choose their own favourite stories to look at. This is also a lovely time to reinforce and reflect on our story of the week. As one of our children entered the library for the first time, they responded by saying 'look at all the books'. Super!



Next week will be a continuation of 'The Three Little Pigs' with further stimulating activities planned to extend the children's learning. Once again, we welcome items from home relating to this theme. The children are all thoroughly enjoying the current theme of favourite stories and we see many quotes and imagination being used regarding the story of the week throughout their play. The children have loved building this week, and blowing down their structures. This is lovely to see!

Just a reminder to parents. Please could Nursery children 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 a variety of reasons including messy activities and water play. Thank you!

### Date for your diary!

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October - Nursery Parents' Evening  
(more information to follow next week)

Have a lovely weekend.

The Nursery Team

## RECEPTION NEWS

Dear parents



The weeks seem to be flying past and half term is even on the horizon, how can that be?! There has been a definite change in the weather over the last few days and the mornings, in particular, are getting quite nippy! Autumn is in the air! With this in mind, please can you ensure that your child has a warm school coat with them each day as well as their school blazer. The back playground is always the last place to see the sunshine in the day and so morning playtimes can feel extra cold. The children can also bring in named school hats and blue gloves if required. Mittens are great as they don't need to be put on by an adult!

We have had another busy week in Reception and it has been evident that the children are feeling much more confident in their surroundings. They are more willing to try new and different activities and are understanding that there are times in the day when they will be asked to leave what they are doing to come and work with an adult. Many of them are making noticeable progress with listening and concentration skills too! Fantastic!

In Phonics, we are still progressing with our alphabet sounds. Looking at letter formation and 'Fred' blending, we are starting to introduce the children to 'Fred green words', which are sound-out-able words that use the letters we have covered. Words like mat, pan, pin etc are 'Fred talked' to the children for them to say aloud and then blend in their head. As they revisit words, they become quicker at recognising and reading them. At this stage, they can start to do 'Fred in the head', which means they sound out and blend words silently then say the whole word out loud. We are also asking children to segment some simple words by saying what sounds they can hear and then record them into their book. Starting with focusing on the first and then last sound, with the middle being the hardest to hear, children are beginning to hear some of these sounds and recognise the appropriate letter grapheme that goes with it. Exciting!



In Maths, we have been looking at number formation so that when children start to record workings in our practical activities they will know how to write some, if not all, of their numbers. This writing has been reinforced using foam, sand, glitter and I-pad applications in other areas of the classroom so that children can transfer the skills they

have learnt to a different context and practise and embed it further.

In PSHE we have been thinking about who we can talk to when we have a worry or problem. All of the children thought of five people that they felt comfortable enough with to share their concerns. It is so important that they have had those thoughts flagged up in their minds so that they don't 'stew over' things without realising that there are lots of people around them to ask for support and guidance.

Topic work has made us all think about what is healthy and unhealthy food. We have talked about what it is that makes something good or bad for us and the children remembered what they had learnt from the dentist the previous week, about sugar being damaging to our teeth, which was impressive! The children sorted



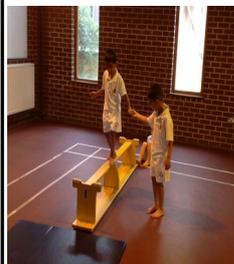
foods into those we could eat lots of because they good for us and those that were lovely, but only as a treat. Some of the children were extremely knowledgeable and could name lots of healthy things and say what they were good for. We have also been labelling the family photographs that the children brought in (thank you) and it has been wonderful to be able to put each child into the larger context of brothers, sisters, parents and grandparents etc. If you have not sent a photograph in for your child, there is still time and the children love sharing them with us!



Forest Fun has been continuing in the Memorial Park, with children exploring their surrounding using their senses. They love the feeling of space that they experience over there. They are the best year we have ever had at organising and starting their own games.

'What's the time Mr Wolf' and chase games spontaneously start when we get to our base! It is a special time when the whole of Reception get to mix together, rekindling old friendships or making new ones.

Please ensure that your child always brings in their waterproofs and wellies as we will take them whatever they are wearing and we can't ensure that they will stay out of muddy puddles! Wet feet and dirty clothes can dampen their enjoyment of the afternoon!



Thank you to those of you have sent your child's snack in a lunchbox to keep everything together. With their water bottle fitting inside too, it makes it so much easy to carry home and around school. Please remember to have Aftercare snacks in a separate lunchbox put at the bottom of the trolley.

School photographs. Your child has smiled and said 'cheese' this week for their individual school photographs and they all looked gorgeous! The pictures will be arriving home for your perusal within the next few weeks. There is something very special about a Reception school photograph!

### Reminders

Please don't forget 'Hello Yellow' day on the 10th of October for World Mental Health day. The children are encouraged to come to school wearing something yellow to show support for young people with mental health concerns. Supporting children early can have a huge positive effect on the whole of their teenage years and even on into adulthood. It can be life changing.



Have a cosy weekend!  
The Reception Team