

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 29th November 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 10

NURSERY NEWS

We have had another extremely busy week at Nursery, especially now Christmas is fast approaching. As our Early Years Christmas Performance is due to take place in a few weeks, the children have been practising their songs in readiness to sing to parents who will hopefully be joining us on the 10th / 11th December for the performances. They have learnt a variety of songs and have been rehearsing and singing beautifully! We do hope this continues in the hall when they have an audience! The children have also been very busy making sparkly snowflake headbands for the performance, using paint, glitter, snow, and many sparkles! They have all been very creative and are looking forward to wearing them for our Christmas performance, together with their wonderful snowflake costumes and clothing which has been sent in from home.



Forest Fun

This week the children toasted marshmallows in the fire pit during their Forest Fun session. They loved watching their marshmallow change colour and consistency as they toasted them, until they were ready to eat! Then they ate their own special marshmallow! Allergies and special requirements were taken into account during this with an alternative option used where needed. During this session, the children also had a very muddy and messy experience, which was wonderful. All the recent rain had ensured a very muddy forest area which the children thoroughly enjoyed. They played and explored the natural environment and splashed in the mud, which was the highlight! This is certainly what Forest Fun is all about, with children experiencing the different weathers, together with all aspects of nature. Super! We had many dirty muddy children at the end of the session who had to change into clean clothing. Please could all parents of children who attend the Forest Fun session provide waterproof trousers together with their usual wellies. This is very important during the winter months and wet weather. Thank you!



Read, Write, Inc.

The children have been looking at the letter 'd' this week. Once again we have had some wonderful items brought in from home. We shall be continuing next week with the letter 't' and if children have any items at home beginning with this letter, they are welcome to bring them in to share with us. Thank you to parents for supporting us in helping the children look for these items at home.



We are in the process of beginning our Christmas displays and the children have begun to produce some fantastic artwork! This week they have worked together to make a large scale Santa. They explored different media and materials to express their own creativity and produce a lovely Santa who will be on display with his elves! The children were very excited and enthusiastic while decorating with cotton wool, paint, tissue paper and glitter. We are sure the excitement will continue to build amongst the children as they begin to participate in further fantastic Christmas activities over the next few weeks!



Next week we have another fun packed week as Christmas fast approaches. The children will be helping to decorate the Nursery and we shall have great fun putting up our sparkly Christmas tree together with many fun and festive activities taking place. Of course, we shall also continue to practice for our Early Years Nativity, 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'. It is wonderful to see Nursery children and Reception children join together for this Christmas Performance. The children have been continuing to work very hard learning all the words and actions to many songs, together with learning their very own special snowflake dance! Thank you to all parents who have sent in their child's snowflake costume. If you have yet to do so, please could this be sent to school in a named bag as soon as possible. Thank you!

Parents should have now received a letter regarding the online booking system to gain places for the Christmas performance. Places are limited to 2 adults per child across both performances. Please also note parking advice as stated in the letter. Thank you!

Dates to Remember

10th December at 2:15pm & 11th December at 9:15am - The Early Years Christmas performance. **Please accept our apologies for the error in timings during the recent Newsletters. The performances will begin at 2:15 and 9:15 as stated above. Thank you.** (If your child does not usually attend on a Tuesday afternoon please can they stay all day on Tuesday 10th for the afternoon performance). Online booking to watch the performance closes on 9th December.

12th December - Early Years Trip to Warwick Arts Centre to see the performance of 'Father Christmas'. This takes place during the afternoon, therefore, children will need to stay with us all day if they do not usually do so.

18th December - End of Term at 12pm Midday

19th & 20th December - Holiday club is open with fun Christmas activities taking place. (Forms are now available if you would like to book)

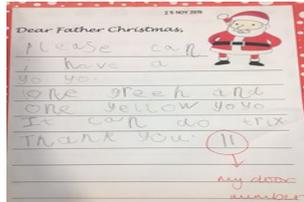
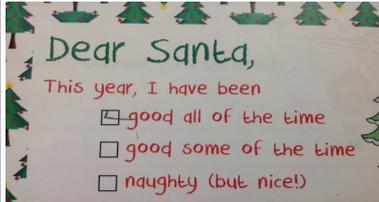
Have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continued support.

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION NEWS



With the start of December upon us already, we are definitely feeling colder! It is good to see so many children all snug and warm in their school coats, hats and gloves. Learning how to do up zips is the next challenge of the season!



With Christmas starting to be felt in the air, the children have been thinking about how they have behaved this year. Had they been good all of the time, good some of the time, or naughty (but nice)?! One very astute child asked how someone could be naughty and still be nice at the same time (maybe they thought it was something to aspire to!). Mrs Reeve was a little challenged as to how to answer! Luckily though, as everyone had been so fantastically good all year, we decided that we were all eligible to write to Father Christmas for a seasonal treat. It was good to note that nobody had a huge long list but were very restrained, only asking for one or two things. Even more encouraging was the notable improvement in the children's writing and spelling. Children are really picking up their phonic sounds and are starting to transfer them to their work. With the letters written, envelopes decorated and stamps put on, we all walked down to the post box on Thursday to hand deliver our letters to the Royal Mail, ensuring that they were correctly posted. Some of the children felt as if they had walked as far as the North Pole after the walk!



Phonics groups have started this week and you should have received a letter explaining what your child's next learning step is and therefore which group they have currently been placed in. Remember that these are very fluid groups and children may move around if their 'next step' requirement changes.

In Maths, we have been looking at 'time'. Starting by challenging ourselves to see how many marbles we could put into a jar within a single minute, we then sat still for 60 seconds to see how long it felt—very long! We then ordered our school day using our visual class timetables. We thought about what happened in the whole day afterwards and sequenced that too! The children had a good understanding of how to sequence events and we were really pleased! Later on, we thought about the days of the week and what happened when. Moving on to hour intervals and clocks. We studied the numbers on the faces and looked at how they were laid out. Noticing the two different hands lengths and colours, we thought about what they showed. Using this knowledge, we learnt about o'clock times and made them on our clocks, making sure that hour and minute hands are in the right place.



In Games, the children have been focusing on experimenting with different ways of moving from galloping to hopping. As in PE, they are learning to negotiate space successfully when playing racing and chasing games, adjusting speed or changing direction to avoid obstacles but for Games, these skills are transferred outside too. Now looking at ball skills, the focus of the remaining lessons this term is to practise rolling, throwing (both under and over arm) and catching skills, starting with large balls for ease. The objective being for children to show increasing control over an object when pushing, patting, throwing, catching or kicking it. The Games staff are already looking for budding sports women and men for future members of King Henry's teams!



We are busy practising our play in our free time and are pleased with the fact the children are beginning to remember their lines and moves. They will look super when they are all dressed up for the children in Swallows to watch soon! One child was asked what they were in the play and they said confidently 'a radiator'. We realised they meant 'narrator'! Well, it is an advanced word! Thank you for sending in your child's costume. If you haven't managed to yet then we would appreciate it to be done as soon as possible. Thank you for your support!

You should be receiving your child's school report on 13th of December. It will contain an overview of your child's academic achievements to date and a pastoral comment too. If you have any queries after reading them, please make an appointment to see your class teacher. Thank you!

Lastly, as you have probably already seen on Facebook, we are super proud to announce that KHPS has been shortlisted for the TES Independent Schools Wellbeing Initiative of the Year award! This is in recognition of our [@ThriveApproach](#) work and our award from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools. [#tesISAwards](#). It recognises our aim to ensure that your child is having a 'whole child' approach to their life in school. Good mental health is just as essential as academic success. Let's hope we win!!



Thank you for your continued support.

We hope you have a fantastic weekend!

The Reception Team