

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 8th November 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 7

## NURSERY NEWS

A very warm welcome back to all children and parents. We hope you all had a relaxing and exciting half term break. The children have been very enthusiastic whilst discussing any holiday news and they have enjoyed sharing this with their friends and teachers. It was lovely to hear about the adventures the children have had over the holidays. Thank you to parents for contributing any holiday adventures on Tapestry as this has enabled us to share these experiences with all the children and we have received some fantastic photos!

We have had a very sparkly and super week at Nursery! We began the week by talking about any fireworks the children had seen over the weekend and any special firework events they attended. One of our children described the fireworks she saw as 'big, sparkly and lots of colour'! We have incorporated this into our activities and the children have enjoyed being very creative while making firework pictures. They experimented with colours and media using paint, cardboard tubes and lots of glitter! This has resulted in some fantastic colourful and sparkly creations! We have also had some fantastic use of language such as Bang, Boom, Whizz, Zoom and Bash! Super!



Some of the children may also be attending the school firework event, which is due to be held this Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. We are sure this will be an amazing night if you will be attending and we look forward to hearing all about it next week!

Continuing along the theme of fireworks, the children have added glitter to our black play dough to make the impression of fireworks in a sparkly night sky. They have enjoyed looking at the sparkles and bright colours contrasting against the dark coloured play dough, whilst moulding it into shapes.



The highlight this week was our Diwali Celebrations on Tuesday. We have been celebrating Diwali this week in Nursery, together with the Reception children and have enjoyed experiencing and learning all about this special Hindu Festival of Lights. Some of the activities have included; making Coconut Barfi to take home, the children enjoyed mixing the ingredients and rolling it into balls, making clay diva lamps and decorating them with paint and sparkles. Listening and dancing to special music, Indian food tasting thanks to Mrs Lidder who made all the amazing food. It was all so tasty and the children enjoyed this new taste experience, some had seconds and thirds! Fire Pit Fun was also a hit in the forest area, with the Early Years children sitting together around the fire and also experiencing sparklers. Super! It was an amazing celebration and the children, and teachers looked fantastic dressed in their brightly coloured clothing!





Next week we shall be continuing along the theme of 'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes' and will be looking at the story of 'The Enormous Turnip', with many fun and varied activities planned for the children. Please can children bring a vegetable of their choice to Nursery on Monday next week, together with a small named container with a lid? We shall be making delicious vegetable soup together and the children will need a container to take it home in. Thank you.

If your child has a place on the football club, this will begin next Tuesday 12th November, please can pumps or trainers be sent to Nursery on this day if your child is participating. Thank you.

#### **Read, Write, Inc.**

This week, the children have begun to learn our new sound of the week, 'm'. They have enjoyed looking at items brought in from home and thinking of items around Nursery beginning with this letter. They have also looked at the correct formation for this letter sound. We shall be continuing next week with the letter 'a'. Once again, if children have any items at home beginning with this letter they are welcome to bring them in to share. Thank you to parents for supporting this.

#### **Dates to Remember**

**15<sup>th</sup> November** - Children in Need Day. Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite movie character for a £1 donation towards this excellent cause.

**10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> December** - This year Nursery children will be joining Reception for their Christmas Nativity. (More information to follow)

**12<sup>th</sup> December** - Early Years Trip to Warwick Arts Centre to see the performance of 'Father Christmas'. Please pay via ParentPay.

**18<sup>th</sup> December** - End of Term at 12pm Midday

Have a lovely weekend

The Nursery Team

## RECEPTION NEWS

Welcome back! We hope you all had a good half term and managed to relax and switch off. It is so good to see the children return looking happy, rested and ready to learn. What a change from the nervous faces at the start of the year! We have loved hearing all the eagerly shared holiday stories. With routines all in place now, children are wasting no time and settling down to super learning.

The second half of the term has already started with a fizz and bang (literally). What a busy and fun packed week! With Diwali day on Tuesday, being a massive success, a special thanks goes out to Mrs Lidder, who not only dressed all the staff up in suitable celebratory attire but also made some amazing food for the children to sample.

The day began with lots of excited children, arriving in their wonderfully colourful outfits and costumes. They then listened the story of Diwali and learnt about Rama and Sita and why it was such an important celebration. We also shared the story of Shri Guru Hargobind Singh Ji and Bandi Chhor Diwas.

Next, they looked at Rangoli patterns that are used to decorate door steps and made their own patterns using different coloured rice, which they carefully placed on an outline shape, picking them up using a pinch grip. Afterwards, they went to the dining hall to taste some authentic Indian food such as jalebi, jarda and masala tea, the tables and hall were even decorated too. The children absolutely loved the pakaras in particular, there were lots of seconds given out!

In the afternoon, the children looked at Diva lamps and made their own pinch pots from clay, decorating them using sequins and gems. The fine motor skills needed to roll the clay into a ball and then pinch it out into a bowl shape were great at strengthening their important hand muscles, that help with pencil control! Even more special, in the afternoon, we all went out to the Forest Fun area and Mrs Cooper lit the camp fire and we all sat round feeling its heat and singing songs. In small groups of two or three, every child was given a sparkler to hold and wave around.

For lots of children this was the best bit of all! After finishing off with some dancing, it was an incredible day that we hope the children got a lot from. Understandably, we were all pretty shattered by the end of the day!



Returning to the rest of the week, in Literacy, we have started to introduce our first group of diagraphs, (sounds which are made up of two letters eg, sh, ch). These will be further explained in our Phonics Evening that we hope you can all attend on Tuesday. Deepening phonic awareness has a real positive impact on reading and spelling skills. Focusing on these sounding out skills, children group sounded tricky Diwali words and then used them to make posters, giving their writing meaning and purpose.

In Numeracy, we have turned our focus to 'one more than'. The emphasis here is to embed a deep understanding of counting and to comprehend how numbers relate to one another. We began by reading 'Maisy Goes Camping' and then using an outline of a tent, we put characters inside it. We then asked, how many would there be if we added one more? Why do you think that? How do you know?

The children were then encouraged to try and record their calculation using the correct mathematical symbols. After lots of practical activities, learning is reinforced using number lines, where children look in a more abstract way at adding. After adding one more, we moved on to dice rolling, adding two numbers together and recording the process. Great work!



Thank you to all of you who are sending your children in with warm school coats and hats. It is really starting to get chilly now, especially first thing in the morning and during the longer lunchtime play. Please could we ask that all hats are school regulation ones! Hats are tricky to keep tabs on so naming them very clearly helps us a lot! Thank you for your patience when things go missing, we do try our utmost to reunite property with pupils. Most things do find their way back eventually!

You should all have received a letter informing you of your child's part in the Christmas play. We try and give as much warning as possible to give plenty of time to sort costumes. If you are unsure what your child is, please dig around in book bags or ask your class teacher.

As we are still having issues with some of your emails going straight into our spam boxes, if you have not received an acknowledgment or reply within 48 hours, please approach the person concerned and mention that you have sent them something. We do try to regularly check our inboxes but sometimes the odd one can get missed. Thank you!

Next Friday is **Children in Need Day**. The children can come dressed as their favourite film character and bring in a £1 for the cause. There will also be a cake sale for which donations are very, very welcome! Please could offerings be brought in the morning of the 15th. Children will need to bring in small change, for example 20p's and 50p's for the cake sale. Thank you so much!

## Notices

**Clubs** Next week - Both **ICT club** (on Tuesday) and **Animal club** (on Thursday) are not running. There are clashes with other events, such as Phonics Evening, unfortunately.

Lastly, a plea for any unused wrapping paper, cards, tags, ribbons etc please. We are turning our Role Play areas into wrapping shops this half term!

The children love having fun with scissors and sellotape and it teaches them a lot about shape and size too!

Thank you for your continued support.

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Reception Team