

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 15th November 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 8

## NURSERY NEWS

The children have had yet another fun filled and busy week at Nursery! We began the week by discussing Remembrance Day on Monday and making our very own poppies. The children made some super red poppies, which they took outside and then joined the whole school in remembering the soldiers. The school also took part in a minute's silence in memory of this.



## Favourite Stories

Our story theme for this week has been 'The Enormous Turnip'. The children have enjoyed a variety of fun and exciting activities, while also discussing different vegetables. The children have loved looking at the story and discussing the size of the turnip, together with thinking of words to describe it, such as gigantic, large, enormous! We have also talked about being kind and helping one another as the story suggests, with everyone working together to help pull the enormous turnip out of the ground.



Our fruit and vegetable shop in the Nursery role-play area has been wonderful. The children have been writing orders together with buying and selling the fruit and vegetables and some have been real produce. Luckily, so far none of the children have tried to eat the real fruit and veg which is surprising as they look so tasty and very tempting for them! This has also promoted discussions about healthy foods and what different foods the children like to eat.



The Nursery environment has had a lovely aroma of the smell of vegetables this week with the children helping to chop vegetables and make tasty soup. They displayed some super physical skills while using the utensils and we discussed safety aspects while cutting the vegetables. Once the soup was ready, the children had a little taste, yummy! Before taking the rest home to eat. Thank you to parents for contributing a lovely variety of vegetables for us to use in this cooking process.



Continuing with the theme of growing and vegetables, the children planted cress seeds while talking about what conditions they need to grow. We have observed them through the week then will be sending them home and this should result in some lovely cress, hopefully! This will also help the children to develop an understanding of growth and changes over time.



The children have enjoyed a creative printing activity using vegetables and paint. During which the children have also looked at the inside of the veg, and any seeds etc which they may contain. We looked at the different patterns each one made on the

paper and also discussed the different shapes, sizes and colours.

## Forest Fun

Our Forest Fun session this week has been another enjoyable and messy experience for the children with many learning opportunities. They found a variety of vegetables hidden in the soil and pulled them out, just like in the story of the Enormous Turnip! There was lots of searching and digging for the hidden vegetables before collecting them in the wheelbarrow. It was lovely to hear the children talking about the vegetables they had found and using specific language such as; leek, celery, pepper, onion, cabbage, cauliflower and even butternut squash. This was a wonderful experience and the children had a fantastic messy time!



As the weather is now becoming damp and wet, please could parents send in waterproof clothing, together with wellies on Forest Fun days. Please could Forest Fun kits and wellies also be taken home at the end of each session on a weekly basis if possible. Alternatively, if the kits and wellies are in a carrier bag they can be stored on the children's peg. Thank you.

## Read, Write, Inc.

The children have been looking at 'a' this week. We have had some wonderful items brought in from home and the children have enjoyed discussing these. We have also looked at the correct formation for this letter sound. We shall be continuing next week with the letter 's'. Once again, if children have any items at home beginning with this letter they are welcome to bring them in to share with us.



**Change of sessions**

Please can any increase in session forms be returned by 6<sup>th</sup> December. You may choose to keep to the same sessions or increase them ready for next term if you wish. Thank you.

**Early Years Nativity**

Parents should now have received letters regarding their child's snowflake performance in the Early Years Nativity. Please could all snowflake clothes and costumes be sent to Nursery in a named bag by 29<sup>th</sup> November. Please ask a member of the Nursery team if you have any questions. Thank you in advance.

**Dates to Remember**

**10<sup>th</sup> December at 2:15pm & 11<sup>th</sup> December at 9:15am** - This year Nursery children will be joining Reception for their Christmas performance, 'Whoops-a-Daisy', (if your child does not usually attend on a Tuesday afternoon please can they stay all day on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> for the afternoon performance).

**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



Another jam-packed week has flown by and with so much crammed into it - we have all slept well each night! After the busy time celebrating Diwali last Tuesday, we have moved on to thinking about all the brave men and women who have fought for us and who keep our country safe. On Armistice Day, we had a very special gathering of all the children in Swallows on the playground. Everyone had made a poppy in class to hold, for the occasion. We all sang a song about poppies and bravery then two children from the senior school played the 'Last Post'. It was very moving and the children behaved so well, standing perfectly silently for the whole minute.



## Children in Need

Today, it was of course, Children in Need day and therefore another great reason to dress up and leave our school uniform at home.

There were some fantastic costumes as children came in as their favourite film character. Everyone was all of a buzz, showing off their outfits and talking about the film they were from! Thank you for all of your generosity both with £1 contributions for dressing up and also for monies to buy treats from our cake sale. The biggest 'thank-you' goes to all of you who brought in or baked the great range of cakes and biscuits we had to sell! We raised lots of money for yet another good cause! Pictures to follow next week!



This week also happened to be Anti-Bullying week too! (We did say it was a busy few days!) This is another hugely important subject that benefits from greater awareness in schools and workplaces. The children learnt that it was okay to be different and that being different makes us all special and unique. The children listened to the 'Elmer' story and thought about all the wonderful unusual characteristics he brought to the other group of elephants. How boring would it be if we were all the same!? This message was also echoed in our PSHE lessons, too.



Literacy, this week has seen us continue with our digraphs, introducing 'th', 'ch', 'ng' and 'nk'. We are doing daily decodable 'Fred' sight words with the children, which can be sounded out using 'Fred sounds' or 'Fred in the head'. We call these 'green words'. We are also starting to think about words that we can't blend together, or 'red words'. Words like 'the' and 'I', looking at ways to remember how to recognise them.



We have been linking Topic and Literacy again this week, thinking about different types of writing and the purposes for it. After watching a video on how to make Pudsey biscuits, we compiled a list of ingredients, remembering to start a new line each time. After thinking about all that delicious food, it would be rude not to make some! So in the afternoon, the children mixed, cut and cooked their own bear biscuits to enjoy. They got so much from the activity and it gave the writing they had undertaken in the morning a real purpose. Fireworks were still on our mind too, so we have been making firework pictures and thinking about words that describe the noises that they make and how they look in the sky. We have used our 'Fred sounding fingers' to sound out all the phonemes that we can hear in each word and record them in our books. We can see such progress in the children's abilities from when they first started! Fantastic!

In Maths, we have been continuing to focus on adding numbers together. Using number lines, 10 grids and Numicon, we estimated, checked and predicted answers to simple addition sums and started recording them into our books. Lots of children are now confident at forming most of their numbers correctly. Adding with dice and butterflies, there has been a lot of practice and reinforcement, taking place.

Practising for the school play has started very gradually in classrooms this week so if your child has got any lines to learn, we would greatly appreciate your support with helping them to say them clearly and slowly. We suggest that you ask them to stand at the top of the stairs and see if you can hear them, standing at the bottom!



We hope that you found our Parents Phonics Workshop useful in supporting and teaching you, how we approach learning phonics in school. In particular, hearing all about the Read Write Inc. scheme and how it helps to embed knowledge in both reading and writing. We had a good turn out and thought you all deserved maximum marks for your efforts and achievements! A gold star for everyone!

Looking ahead there is the New Parent's Thrive workshop at Swallows on the 3rd of December, which will explain what the Thrive approach is and how, and who, it benefits in school. It is a fantastic support scheme for all children and most will access it at some point during their school journey.

**Games** Now that Autumn has arrived with a vengeance, please can you send your child in on Fridays, with a set of school skins on under their games top and their warm games sweatshirt, too (as well as their coat). Although the children are running around a lot, as they are wearing their kit all day, there are moments when they are more static. Understandably during these times, they are complaining that they are getting rather cold! Thank you so much!

Have a wonderful weekend,



The Reception Team



KING  
HENRY VIII  
PREPARATORY  
SCHOOL

## HOUSE CHRISTMAS BAUBLE COMPETITION SWALLOWS



- Decorate a Christmas Bauble for you House Christmas Tree. (Please see instructions)
- Bring it into school by **Monday 25<sup>TH</sup> November.**
- The House Prefects will then decorate your House trees, they will then be judged & go on display in school.
- At the school Christmas Fayre on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November** the trees will be on display and you will be able to buy a bauble.
- All the money raised will then go to charity.

### Swallows Bauble Instructions:

1. Cut out the bauble template.
2. Draw around the bauble onto a piece of card and cut around the bauble outline.
3. Decorate both sides of the bauble with Christmassy things in your House colours. ie. Use felt tips, paint, glitter and tinsel etc.
4. Attach a ribbon to the top of the bauble so it can be hung from a tree.
5. Bring to school and put it in your House box.

**SWALLOWS BAUBLE TEMPLATE**

