

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 22nd November 2019

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 9

NURSERY NEWS

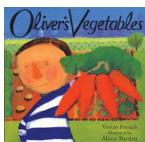
We would like to begin by saying how wonderful the children looked last Friday when they dressed up as their favourite movie character for Children in Need. We had a super day in Nursery with lots of fun activities to support this excellent cause. A huge thank you to parents for helping us to support this day!



We began this week with the children looking at growth and changes over time. The children noticed their cress seeds which they planted last week had started to grow. "Look at my plant" remarked one child. "It has grown big and strong", remarked another. Fantastic Comments! The children were very excited to take their cress pot home and hopefully the cress will continue to grow.

'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes'

Along the theme of vegetables, we have been looking at the story of 'Oliver's Vegetables' which also links well to last week's story, 'The Enormous Turnip'. Oliver grows a different variety of vegetables such as beetroot, rhubarb and spinach. The children have been looking closely at vegetables in the soil and exploring our digging tray with a variety of vegetables such as carrots, potatoes, peppers, leeks, cabbages and onions, whilst also handling rakes and spades. This activity has resulted in the children hiding the vegetables in the soil and then pulling them out, before collecting them in the wheelbarrow!



The children have also enjoyed a vegetable tasting activity, just like when Oliver tried a variety of vegetables in the story. They tasted green beans, cucumber, baby corn, lettuce, tomatoes etc. This resulted in some fantastic use of language from the children with words such as crunchy, yummy and seeds. Yuck was also heard from a couple of the children! They talked about their preferences by discussing what they liked and what they did not like! Some of the comments from the children were "I don't like the seeds", "it tastes like a chilli, spicy" "lettuce is cold" and "I like lettuce, but only one".



The Nursery tortoises were also thrilled this activity had taken place, as they were able to taste and eat any leftover vegetables, which they really enjoyed. Fantastic!



During a Numeracy activity this week, the children participated in some super counting and number recognition to be able to finger print some peas onto their pea pods. They showed great concentration while ensuring they printed the correct number of peas. Super work Nursery!

This week, we have had a brilliant example of some child initiated learning. During outside play time one afternoon, the children were extremely excited to watch the wind blowing the leaves from the trees. This led to the children catching all of the falling leaves between their fingers and counting the leaves as they caught them. Once we returned to Nursery and also based on this current interest in leaves, we made some wonderful creative pictures with the leaves which also included paint, glue and glitter. The children made trees and squirrels and we had a range of creative ideas. Marvellous! There was so much learning and enjoyment for the children based on their own spontaneous and child-led event which was fantastic!!



Read, Write, Inc.

The children have been looking at the letter 's' this week. Once again, we have had some wonderful items brought in from home. We have also looked at the correct formation for these letter sounds. As this week's letter has been 's', the children have had great fun creating snakes. This required great fine motor and physical skills as they threaded onto pipe cleaners before making a face on their snake. Finishing off with forming the snake into the shape of our letter sound, 's' for snake!



We shall be continuing next week with the letter 'd' and if children have any items at home beginning with this letter they are welcome to bring them in to share with us.

Change in sessions

If parents have not already done so, please can they return the increase in session form for next term by the 6th December. You may choose to keep to the same sessions or increase them next term if you wish. Thank you.

Dates to Remember

10th December at 2:25pm & 11th 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 10th for the afternoon performance).

12th December - Early Years Trip to Warwick Arts Centre to see the performance of 'Father Christmas'.

18th December - End of Term at 12pm Midday

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

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION NEWS

November

The weeks are disappearing since half term! Everything is going at such an amazing pace! This week was a little quieter than the previous two with the absence of any theme days, yet we still packed in a range of different learning activities for the children to experience, from swimming, to music, subtraction to ball skills.

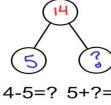
In Literacy and Topic this week, we have been looking at the story of 'Pumpkin soup', thinking about the season of Autumn and continuing to write for different reasons. After reading the book, we ordered pictures showing how to make soup and wrote a sentence or verb underneath each one. We then set to work and chopped and sliced lots of vegetables to make the soup, just like in the story. The children learnt a lot about how foods change in appearance and texture after cooking and blending. They loved tasting the soup and many wanted more!! Worried about the missing duck in the story, they made a 'Missing' poster to help find him and thought of great describing words to include in their work. This extended their language and introduced new vocabulary. Staff were then 'hot seated', pretending to be one of the characters in the book, encouraging the children to understand how they must have felt and why they behaved as they did.



A really deep understanding of the text being fostered.

You will all be receiving a letter explaining your child's next learning step in phonics. It may be to hear three sounds in a word or to 'Fred in their head' their sounds silently to blend them together, whatever their next personal goal is. Starting soon, your child will be placed into a group of children who are all focussing on the same step so that teaching and learning can be perfectly matched to their need. The groups will meet during our RWI lessons for between twenty minutes to an hour, depending on the focus. These groups are very fluid and your child may well move between them during the year. Learning happens at different rates and speeds.

In Numeracy, we have moved on to 'take away' or 'less than'. Starting by using 10 grids and Numicon again, the children recapped what they had learnt about addition and then used this knowledge to link to take away or the 'less than' process. Using a 'part whole diagram', the children thought about how a number is made up and used this knowledge to deepen understanding of addition, subtraction and missing number problems, focusing particularly on using the language of 'less' or 'fewer' when comparing two sets of objects. This Mastery truly cements learning and allows children to grasp more complex concepts at a later stage.



Other learning experiences are also constantly occurring throughout the school day. Here are some pictures of the general activities that are undertaken. They demonstrate children extending their linguistic, social and imaginative skills through play and problem solving.



Dates for the diary

With so much happening around this time of year, here is a run down of up and coming events for your diary.

On the 5th December there is the **Thrive Parents workshop**. This is a great way of learning about our whole school Thrive approach and how it is embedded in our curriculum to support all children and raise awareness of Mental Health issues.



The 10th of December at 2.15pm and the 11th of December at 9.15am are the dates of the **Early Years Nativity**. We have been continuing to work hard on learning our Christmas songs during Music lessons and we are getting really good! Practising has been going on in classrooms too and soon the stage will be going up in the hall for us to properly learn positions and dances. It is such an exciting time and it really makes us start to feel festive! Not much longer now! It is the first time in a long time that Nursery and Reception have joined forces for one big event and it makes it extra special to have us all together! More information will follow at a later date.

The 12th of December is the **Early Years Christmas trip** to The Arts Centre at Warwick University. We love this outing and look forward to it every year! The children get so excited going to the theatre and the productions are always amazing!

The 13th of December is the date for our **Swallows Christmas Dinner**. This is another very festive event that gets us all in the Christmas spirit. The children make hats to wear for the meal and have a full Christmas meal with all the trimmings, even crackers too, although these can confuse some children completely!

Requests

We will be writing a letter to Santa in our Literacy lesson, which we then walk to the letterbox to post. He is always brilliant and replies to each and every child. Please could you therefore send in a **named first class stamp** for your child to use. Thank you!

PE kit- Please could you all **check your child's PE kit** as a child in RWP is missing a top which may have ended up in someone's bag. Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who have brought in your child's **Nativity costume**. If you have yet to do so, please could you put your named costume into a named bag and bring it to school as soon as possible. This allows us to sort out any wardrobe malfunctions and problems!

Animal club will not be running on December the 5th. Any children who are not picked up from school will be safely looked after in Aftercare.

The **House bauble competition** letter was attached to the Early Years Newsletter last week. If you would like to get arty this weekend then please use the colours of your child's house. If your child does not know which house they are in then you could ask them what colour their star chart is. A red star chart means that they are in Richmond, blue in Windsor, yellow in Hampton and finally green means they are in Greenwich. The competition closes on November 29th.

Have a wonderful weekend!

The Reception Team