

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 21st February 2020 King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 18

NURSERY NEWS

We have finally reached the end of a very busy and tiring half term and that's just for the teacher's! The children have showed signs of fatigue this week too with more squabbles and tears than we normally see. Can we take this opportunity to say have a great half term week and we will see you in March! The Year 1 children treated us all to a spectacular show, "Croak" to kickstart our week on Monday morning. It was lovely to see the transformation of the tadpole to a frog, but for staff, we saw the transformation of previous Nursery children, into sensible and confident performers. For many of the current Nursery children, siblings were on stage and so this was added to the fun and excitement.

This week we have been looking at the story of 'I don't want to wash my hands!', which is great for looking at the issue of health and hygiene in a child-friendly way. We have hand painted and decorated with germs and we have splat painted which is a fun way to create lively pieces of art.



The children all worked hard during the Numeracy activity's this week. They were given blocks which they had to transform into a table and they had to design a car. Both of these challenges were open-ended, leaving the children to choose shapes to construct with and then using reasoning skills to explain why they had done things the way they had.



In Literacy, the children were read the opening of a story so that they could come up with suggestions as to what might happen next and how the story might end. It is great for children to use their imagination in this way and helps them prepare for story writing further up the school.

Read, Write, Inc.

The children have been looking at the letter 'k' this week. Once again, we have had some wonderful items brought in from home. The children love looking at these items with their friends and have a sense of pride talking about their personal items beginning with our letter sound. It is one of the trickier letters to write and we do teach it with a curl, but all the children have worked hard to form it correctly. We shall be continuing after half term with the letter 'u'.

Forest Fun

We enjoyed a treat because it was our last Forest Fun session of the half term. The fire pit was lit and the children helped to cook a slice of bread, enjoying the toast, buttered and warm, whilst sat round the fire. It was so much fun and we are only sorry that the children didn't get to have 2 slices as they were asking for....the rain came and spoilt our fun!



Last week we asked parents to ensure morning snack was **small** and consisting of a **healthy fruit** based snack. We haven't noticed any change in the size of the lunch boxes being sent in. We think it is important to explain our reasons with you, so you understand. The children have a fairly short morning. A fresh air, warm up outside is followed by a focused circle time. From 9.30am - 10.45 am, the children choose what they do, but they are encouraged to work with Mrs Cooper and also, there is a creative activity on offer. Snack-time falls in this hour and the children have free access to the snack bar, where they sit, eat and drink. For some children, this can take most of the morning as their snack box is so full. We also want to point out that lunch is served at 12pm and for those who have had sandwiches and multiple snacks, they are just not hungry and do not want to eat the lunch provided. **All** the children drink **water** at the dinner tables so there is no need for them to be sent in with squash or juice. Thank you for your support with this.

Date to remember:

World Book Day is coming up after the half term break, on **Thursday 5th March**. We would love your children to come to Nursery dressed up as their favourite character from a book.

Forthcoming Topic

After half term, Nursery are planning to discuss the important theme of 'People Who Help Us', such as doctors, firefighters, vets, opticians and many more. This will enable the children to learn about safety and services in the community, including the important job they do. This theme will commence on Monday 2nd March. Based on this theme, if any parents would like to come into Nursery to talk to the children regarding the job they do and what their role entails, this would be much appreciated. If you are able to visit next half term to speak to the Nursery children about any aspect of this important topic, or maybe bring in items of interest, then please speak to a member of the Nursery team. Thank you.

Have a lovely half term and see you all soon.

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION NEWS



We've come to the end of our first half of the Spring term and can safely say we are all ready for a break. We have had so much fun with our Superhero topic; the children have really enjoyed getting to know some of the different superheroes and finding out about their superpowers.

We continued this week with our 'Supertato' story, specifically looking at healthy food types. We recalled the names of the super veggies from the story and talked about how often we should eat vegetables and which ones we have tried. We then sorted different foods by whether they are healthy or not healthy.



We thought about how else we keep our bodies healthy—exercise, brushing our teeth, sleep, drinking water. Using all our new learning, we packed our own healthy lunchboxes, making sure we had a good balance of different foods.

Now being so familiar with the story, we acted out 'Supertato', using time words to help us retell it in the right order. We used 'first, next, then, after that, finally, in the end' and more. We then sequenced images from the story and wrote sentences to match, remembering our finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. It's lovely seeing the children writing more independently now, using their Fred fingers to sound out.

Although there are continuous opportunities for Mathematical problem setting and solving in Reception, our Maths learning this week has been specifically linked to problem solving. The children have been applying all the knowledge they have gained so far on number, shape, space and measure to real life problems. Problem solving in Maths provides children with the chance to do lots of talking about what the problem is, how they are going to solve it step by step, what they can use to help and whether there is an alternative solution. It allows the child to think more creatively, which can initially be scary for some! Here are some examples of children creating their own problems, based on what they are interested in this term.



What is best to use to fill this container

What 2D shapes do I need to make a trophy?



How can I make a rectangle with these shapes?

We hope you have a lovely half term and that the storms remain at bay for the week!

Important Notices

-It is World Book Day on the 5th March. Children can come to school dressed up as their favourite character from a book.

-Make sure you have our Mother's Day assembly on the 20th March in your diaries! It starts at 9:15am with coffee from 8:30am.

-There will be no Games or Forest Fun on the 20th March. Could your child please come in to school dressed in school uniform.