

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 20th March 2020 King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2019-2020

Issue 21

It has been a bit of a surreal few weeks with the current issues going on all around us. However, you would not know



it by the attitudes of the children, who are still coming in to school happy and excited for the day. With the weather that bit milder (and to get out in the fresh air as much as possible) Reception have been enjoying the outdoor



area. We have had chalk drawing, water painting, finger painting, grocery shopping, planting and much more. Take a look at how much fun we've been having.

Our fairytale story for this week has been 'Goldilocks and the three bears'. We heard lots of different retellings of the story and discussed how fairytales are not always retold in exactly the same way but the main storyline is kept the same. We spotted some of the differences and talked about which versions we liked the best. Taking this into account and after really familiarizing ourselves with the story, we decided to write our own versions. The children



made sure they included their typical fairytale starter.... 'Once upon a time' 'Once' 'One day'.... and a happy ending too. We spread our writing out over the week to ensure we added detail to each part of the story. The teachers were all very impressed with the sentence writing we saw.



In Maths this week we have been learning about estimation and started with a definition of what it means—'having a good guess'. We talked about how these guesses don't have to be exact. They are instead a rough idea. We made towers of bricks and estimated how tall they were, then checked our answers by counting. We then built a tower with a known number of bricks and used this tower to help us make well thought out estimates of the number of bricks in other towers. We thought about whether the other towers were bigger or smaller and therefore whether the number of bricks would be more or less. Following on from this we had various containers filled with items for the children to make estimates on. We asked them to explain their choice of numbers with a partner, encouraging their use of reasoning skills.

We are disappointed we could not continue with the Mother's Day assembly. The children had worked hard learning the songs and their lines too. We hope to do something soon for you mums in the coming months but in the meantime enjoy your special day. Take some much deserved time for you!

Finally, despite it being the right decision to keep everyone safe, we are sad to be closing for the coming weeks and will miss all the children. They are the reason we want to come in to work every day! Remember to keep in contact with us. You can update us on what your child has done at home via Tapestry or record activities in your home learning book, sent home on Wednesday. Any questions you have, don't hesitate to email. Please look after yourselves and stay safe. We hope to see you all soon and thank you for your support.

From all the Reception staff x

## Nursery News

This week began with discussions surrounding the great importance of handwashing and cleanliness, in light of the current situation. The children conducted an experiment



using water, soap and pepper! They were amazed to find the pepper granules, which we pretended were germs, floating away as the soap entered the water. The

children have also been handwashing with soap and warm water at regular periods throughout their time at Nursery, working on their counting skills to 20, or singing, 'Happy Birthday' twice while doing so. The song has been popular and we have had lots of lovely singing coming from the bathroom!



During Forest fun this week, the children looked for signs of spring and were very excited to find blossom growing on the trees, and flowers such as daffodils and crocuses growing! Please can we remind parents that even though the weather is improving, children can still become muddy due to the many natural activities, which they experience



in the forest area. Therefore, please can we reiterate the importance of children having a spare set of uniform in their bags each day. There may also be various reasons throughout the week, which may require a change of clothing. Thank you.

## St Patrick's Day

On Tuesday, we discussed St Patrick's Day. The children decorated a Shamrock using different shades of green and a variety of media and materials, such as paint, craft paper and glitter, which they enjoyed. We had some very creative and sparkly Shamrock's which were super!



## People who help us

This week in Nursery the children have been continuing with the theme and the important topic of, 'People who help us'. We have talked about the roles of a variety of people such as teachers, shop assistants, firefighters and doctors. We have also been discussing the range of amazing ways which they help people and the community. As such, Nursery have acquired a Doctor's Surgery in their role-play area. There have been conversations based on the roles of doctors and nurses, while discussing the



important job they do to help us. The children have been bandaging, writing prescriptions and talking about how they can make their friends better! 'People who help us' is a fantastic topic for the children to learn about safety and the important services within the community in which we live, whilst also gaining increased knowledge of the world and expanding a range of skills.

## Read, Write, Inc.

The children have been looking at the letter 'f' 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. Thank you to parents for supporting your children in looking for these items and talking about the specific sounds with them at home. We shall be focusing next on the letter 'e'.



We have been making some special items for Mother's Day, which is this Sunday. We do not want to give too much away before Sunday, in case your child is keeping these as a surprise! The children had so much fun making the special items! We have also talked about the special ways that our mummy helps us and about why we love them so much. We hope all mummies have a lovely relaxing day on Sunday!



## COVID-19

You will be informed via email and kept abreast of the current situation, home-learning activities and ideas will also be made available to you throughout this time.

We hope all our families continue to stay safe at this difficult time.

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