

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 2nd October 2020 King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2020-2021

Issue 4

## NURSERY NEWS

Another week finished and I wonder if it is just us or whether the weeks are passing by so quickly? The weather has definitely changed and an autumnal feel is in the air. We love this time of year and the cooler weather doesn't stop any of the fun we have at Nursery. The Three Little Pigs has been our story of the week and it has been enjoyed by all! The children had school photos on Thursday and I hope the camera captures their beautiful faces well for you as they looked gorgeous!



### Numeracy

The children were asked to count out different amount of pigs from a larger group, matching quantity and numeral which proved to be quite tricky for some. Most managed to 3 and over the year we will work on them being able to do this confidently to 10. They also had to represent the number in whatever way they were able. At this point in their development, it can be by showing the correct number of fingers, marking the number with dots, lines or marks or trying to write the numeral. The children are also being introduced to Numicon, which is a great visual and practical resource to teach numbers. We are up to 5!

### Literacy

The children are beginning to recognise their own names well and the green bottles and snack apples are definitely helping with this. The children have been introduced to the letter 'M' this week. It is important to say that even the children who were with us last year need refreshing on their letter sounds and as the year goes on, they will be pushed further if their recollection of the letter sounds is good. We use the letter sound, not its name, for example, 'mmmmm' not 'muh' or 'm'. Those children that know the name are re-learning the sound it makes as this helps with blending later on.



Beside this, the children made Piggy houses in Forest Fun and you will be pleased to learn that the big bad wolf could not blow them down as the building skills were so good! They have decorated piggy biscuits, painted pigs and played in the mud just like pigs! It has been another fab week!

Have a good weekend.



## RECEPTION NEWS

As the weeks start to fly past and we are getting into our stride, we continue to be pleased with how the children are adapting to the changes in learning and expectations for Reception. Changes that are new to us as teachers too due to this strange COVID time. Handwashing is becoming second nature and children are very aware of not mixing with a different bubble, even if their brother or sister is in it. Such mature concepts to have to understand.



As our topic has continued this week, we have been thinking about our families and people who are special to us. It has made us all reflect on how lucky we are to have people who love and care for us. It has been interesting to see that pets are an important friendship for many children and a great source of comfort too. The family photographs you kindly sent in, were a fantastic conversation prompt and a delight to the children, who talked animatedly about who lives in their house with them.

In Maths, we have been continuing to work on mastering numbers to 10 or 20, by counting out and ordering numbers or numerals. Our 'sock' number line was a much enjoyed activity, with paper socks flying everywhere! To have a deep understanding of maths, children need to truly understand what each number 'means'. What it looks like in different arrangements, for example, when on the face of a dice, or as a small group of objects on the table. How it compares to the other numbers before and after it and how much 'less or more' than 10 it is.



**Tapestry:** As you are aware, each week we would like you to post on Tapestry a photograph of your child's completed homework and a picture of them reading their book or doing their tricky words practice. These we will comment on. You are also very welcome to upload other posts relating to how your child spends their time at home. We love to see them! However, we cannot guarantee a response to these posts. As you will understand, it is because we would not like to take teaching time away from your child in order to reply to each one individually. Thank you.

**Food tasting:** Next week, we will be looking at our senses and in particular 'taste'. The children will be tasting a range of different foods to see whether they can guess what they are just by this sense alone. Your child's allergies will be taken into consideration.

**Parent's meetings:** Reception Parent's meetings start from next week and you should all have received a Teams invite by email. Please check your junk folder if you haven't or ensure that you have signed up to a slot. It is a system that is still quite new to us and we are learning as we go along so if we are a little late connecting with you, please be patient with us. We will be trying our hardest! The meetings can not exceed the 10 minutes allotted time because of the knock on effect to others. Thank you!

**Well done:** Some children have been so amazing that they have already finished their first star chart! Truly awesome! A huge congratulations to all of you! Keep up all the fantastic work!

Finally, Happy Birthday to Mia this week. We hope you have a lovely day.

Have a great weekend.

The Reception Team

