

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 6th November 2020

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2020-2021

Issue 7

NURSERY NEWS

Hello to you all and welcome back. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable half term break. Your children have settled back in with ease and it has been a busy week. On Monday morning we read a book called 'Remember Remember the Fifth of November', which tells a tale about Bonfire Night and a hedgehog. The story was enjoyed by all and it set the scene well for a very exciting Forest Fun session;



the children were introduced to the fire pit. We had a detailed chat about safety around fire and the children were very responsible for the whole time. Each child placed 3 logs in the pit and then it was lit. There was a squeal of excitement as the flames grew and one at a time, the children were taken to stand by the fire pit so they could have a closer look and feel the heat from the flames. They then sat and waited patiently as toast was cooked and spread with butter. Not a slice was left of the loaf! "I want more!" was being called out constantly and they loved every mouthful. It really was fab! The fire pit is a favourite of Mrs Cooper's and marshmallows are next on the list!



Arts and crafts:

In keeping with the theme of the story, the children made little hedgehogs out of salt dough. They are so cute and have been sent home with their very own bed to hibernate in!



Using cocktail sticks, paint and our fingers, the children created some beautiful bonfire pictures and they look so effective.



Who knew a chopped up kitchen roll could make such a good tool to print with, but they do and the children made brightly coloured, explosive looking fireworks pictures.

Letters:

The children were introduced to the letter 'd' this week and the rhyme, 'round the dinosaurs bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet.' They have picked it up quickly and remember the letter sounds introduced before the break which is great.

Numeracy:

The shape monsters continued this week, with the circle! As revision, they played a shape game and made firework pictures using shapes.



The weather has certainly taken a Wintry turn this week with frosty starts each morning. Due to new Covid 19 guidelines, we have to keep Nursery ventilated throughout the day, by opening doors and windows. Please can you ensure children have a vest on under their jumpers. We would never let them get cold, but it does feel airy.

It really has been such a busy and wonderful week. Next week, we will be learning about Diwali and the children will be taught the letter 't'. Have a great weekend.

RECEPTION NEWS



It is so nice to see the children back after the break. They have been so full of stories of holidays, trips away, days out and in particular Halloween! Such exciting memories! Thank you for uploading some of your photos onto Tapestry for us to look at. The children have definitely grown in self-assurance over the break too and instantly adapted to being back in the classroom. Amazing!



We were straight back to work on Monday with a **Maths** lesson on 2D shape. The children were asked to name and describe the properties of shapes. How many corners and sides did they have? There was lots of discussions about circles! Everyone was super knowledgeable, it was amazing! Later on in the week, the children went on to make models and pictures with their shapes, talking about what shapes they had used for which part of their picture and why. We had some very imaginative creations, even a chicken coop! Pattern was then linked in as children made patterned towers and recorded their repeat on to their worksheet. The challenge was to have the most complicated repeat they could! We got to patterns of 4 different colours!

Literacy saw us thinking about how awesome we were and what we felt our special skill was. It is an Early Learning Goal to be able to describe yourself in positive terms. We went on to think about what we were good at in school and what we felt we needed to practise. The children were using their reading skills to sort out pictures of activities to consider if they were confident in them or not. Some children felt they were good at everything! We have been continuing to introduce our RWi sounds and when fully complete, all the children will be assessed to ascertain what their next phonics learning step will be.

In **Topic**, we thought about the special times that we share with our family and friends. Everyone spoke about what different celebrations happened in their homes and the types of ways these were observed. Children talked about what their family did when it was someone's birthday, when there was a wedding etc. Again, these are all key learning goals from the Early Years curriculum because they help children to get a sense of the traditions that are important to their family. It also helps them to understand that not all their friends celebrate the same festivals or even if they do, not always in the same way. There are many similarities and differences between us all.



NOTICES:

Poorly children: If your child is feeling a little under the weather when you drop them off in the morning, please could you pass a message on to the staff on duty. This will ensure that we know to keep a special eye on them during the day. *If your child has a high temperature, a new persistent cough or a change to their sense of taste or smell, you must not send them to school and must arrange a test for them.* As you will understand during these times of COVID, monitoring the health of those in school is a priority. Thank you.

A reminder: On November the 10th, we will be celebrating **Diwali** with a day of special activities ranging from creating Rangoli patterns to making diva lamps. Please remember to wear your special clothes on that day, however do ensure that you are wearing sensible shoes and still bring a warm coat for playtimes. The lunch staff will be providing a Diwali lunch at school on the 16th.



Grapes—Could we ask again for grapes to be cut in half or they pose a choking hazard. Thank you.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Keep safe.

The Reception Team