

Nursery Newsletter

18/1/2023



Dear Parents and Carers,

Many thanks to all who have replied on "EvidenceMe" with comments in response to weekly photographs sent, especially the new parents to our school. The new children have settled in so well and are quickly picking up our routines which are modelled by our older children who are quick to tell them to put on an apron when painting or playing in the water. The older, afternoon children are also benefitting from having more children to play with and new friendships are being made which is lovely to see

Early literacy skills includes developing phonological awareness so that they can recognise words with the same initial sound. Using the children's names as a starting point for e.g. "B B B Ben, b b b ball, b b b bath, b b b bed, b b b bubbles". This is a very difficult skill for young children but already one or two children are picking it up. Tuning into sounds also plays a big part, we often will stop and listen and name the sounds that we can hear around us. When outdoors one little girl pointed out the many birds flying overhead who we heard before we actually could see them! When walking home talk with your child about the sounds you can hear. On "EducationCity" within the EYFS section, English, there is a game called, "Stop, Pop and Listen" which supports this skill. For the new children I will send out log-in details for "Education City".

Please return your child's Book Bag to Nursery daily so we can change the book for you to share at home with your child. If you have lost your Book Bag please let a member of staff know and we can replace it. Creating regular "reading" habits at a young age is so important and hopefully will create readers for life. Most children do bring their bag each day which is great. Many studies state that children who develop a "love" of reading do well not only in school but also as they go through life and the jobs they do.

Our Big Book focus this week was "This is the Bear" by Helen Craig. If you would like to listen to the book at home with your child it can be found on YouTube. [This is the Bear Read-Aloud - YouTube](#)

During reading we noticed the rhyming words (which is something we have been focusing on this week) and talked about the characters in this story. Over the last year members of our EYFS team received training in "ROAR Looking after Mental Health". This is an intervention which in the past has been predominantly

focused at Key Stage 1 and older children. However, especially due to the covid pandemic and the stresses this brought to all families at different levels, it is realised that the earlier support is put in place the more impact it will have. A lot of talk during the training has been about the children being able to recognise how they are feeling and being able to label their emotions. This is particularly true at this time of year with our new starters, some of whom are still settling in to the routines of Nursery and being away from their family and also for our older children whose routine has been altered slightly. Whilst reading the focus book we noticed the faces of the characters in the story and how it looked different when they were feeling cross, sad, happy and so on. Looking at the boy's eyebrows and mouth were key indicators and also his body language, arms folded, hands on hips etc. We talked about how their feelings changed throughout the story and the reasons why. We also refer to this when the children are playing and the importance of picking up cues on how some children are feeling and how we can respond.

The children are doing really well recognising their name and also the initial letter of their name as well as those of their friends too which is great considering we have only just started our second term in Nursery. Continuing to develop phonological awareness we are working on syllables in words, counting and clapping syllables in our names. e.g. Ben has one syllable, Lucy (Lu-cy) has two syllables, Jessica (Jess-i-ca) has three syllables, Amelia (A-me-li-a) has 4 syllables. Phonological awareness is the ability to tune in to the spoken word recognising different speech sounds. For example I might say, "mmmmmmmm" and children have to guess whose name I am thinking of, "mmmmmmMatthew" or "c c c c c Connie". Formal phonics using the "Read Write Inc" scheme which the rest of the school follows will begin in the summer term.

In Maths we have subscribed to "Master the Curriculum" a scheme specifically for Nursery children which leads on to "White Rose Maths" which the rest of the school follows. A focus this week has been sorting for the "same" and "different" according to shape, colour and size and also using the word "match". It is lovely to hear the children using these words after the teaching input, even when putting on their gloves one little boy said, "It's a match".

A reminder that on Friday we will be visited by Lauren the Health Promotions worker from Stoneycroft Children's Centre who will be talking to the children about the importance of looking after our teeth.

As you are aware the school had an Ofsted Inspection at the beginning of December. The report has now been published and can be found on the school website and also on the school twitter page "@stannestanley1". The opening paragraph states, "Pupils at St Anne's (Stanley) School thrive in a supportive and caring environment. Please have a look at it as we are really proud of our

children's achievements and of our families who support us on a daily basis ensuring we remain a "GOOD" school.

Take care and enjoy the rest of your week.

Mrs Riley

Nursery Teacher

EYFS Lead