

Nursery Newsletter

9/03/2024



Dear Parents and Carers

Hoping you liked the Mother's Day card the children brought home this week. Whilst making the card the children used pens, paintbrush and a fork (to print each flower). Some children are developing a really good pencil grip showing good control when mark making and writing. This is something we are working on on a daily basis in nursery. Many activities available in nursery are based around developing fine motor skills, children being able to position their fingers ready for formal writing when they move to Reception in September. So whether it be holding a paint brush or a fork (to print) staff can model the correct grip to use rather than using a fist grip where all the fingers are wrapped around. What we are looking for is a pincer grip where the first two fingers and thumb come together. Some children are developing good name writing but again this is an ongoing focus getting the children ready for Reception.

Using "Mastering the Curriculum" as our main maths teaching, the children are doing really well understanding the basic concepts of number. For example this week using numicon the children explored different ways of making 5, following a whole class input. We are also encouraging the children to show or represent number in different ways, using their fingers and also making marks to represent different numbers to record what they have been doing. "Bunny Ears" is a good game to play, call out or show a number which is written down and the children have to show this number using their hands resting on their head as bunny ears with the correct number of fingers sticking up!

Our number song this week was "Alice the Camel has 5 Humps".

<https://youtu.be/A8hjmsBKM5w>

The children enjoyed World Book Day on Thursday, many thanks to all who were able to take part.

On Friday teaching staff in Nursery and Reception attended a course which was based on children's development of communication and language. The message that came across was the importance of adult and child interactions and conversations especially when sharing a book together. At this time the children are exposed to new vocabulary which they may otherwise not become familiar with. Don't worry about always "reading" from the text in the book as often the language used is not appropriate for very young children. Look at each picture on each page with your child, talking together about what you can see. Discuss how a character may be feeling, if they look happy or sad, and the reasons for this. If your child's home language is not English the message was to talk about the book in your home/first language so this becomes strong.

There are many studies which give evidence to suggest that many children due to technology (e.g. iPads, phones, too much television time) are missing out on the crucial conversations in their early years whilst their brain is still developing on which future learning depends. Throughout our day in Nursery our focus is on quality interactions and conversations with the children. The priority is talking **with** the children not **to** the children so they are given the opportunity to voice their opinions

and staff can respond and expand on what the children are saying. The teaching of vocabulary remains important but evidence shows it is not as important as these sustained, back and forth conversations which children need especially in their earlier years.

A worrying statistic given at the training, was that a child with language difficulties at the age of 5 is likely to have reading difficulties as they progress through school. The amount of vocabulary a child has at the age of 5 is a strong predictor of a child's later success in school. It impacts not only their emotional wellbeing but also is fundamental to play and how a child plays, the processes involved.

This will become even more of a priority within our setting given the worrying statistics.

We realise there are many children at our setting with little or no books at home. We are hoping to become involved in a project which gives a book each month to each child until their 5th birthday which they can keep at home. If you have no books at home or very few books available for your child please reply to this email or if you are happy to let a member of staff be aware, this is something we will try to help with.

Many thanks to those parents who have recently donated books their child no longer uses to nursery. If you are having a sort out you are more than welcome to send them to nursery and we can re-distribute them.

Apologies for a long newsletter this week but I wanted to keep you updated with our slight change in priorities in nursery.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Riley