

January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year. Welcome, from all of us in the Nursery, to a new school term. We hope you had a relaxing Christmas break. Thank you very much for your generous Christmas gifts, cards and kind wishes, they were really appreciated.

With this letter is attached an overview of some of the things your child will learn this term. In Nursery we always try to plan according to the children's interests so things are subject to change!

Topic

Our topic this half term is 'Come outside'. We will begin this term by looking at Winter, followed by "I Wonder Where That Is?". The children will consider languages, flags, landscapes, animals and similarities/differences between themselves and people of the countries. We will be listening to music and learning dances as well as enjoying a range of foods at snack time. We will also include mini topics such as 'Chinese New Year' and a science topic on forces looking at the weather outside, wind and magnets.

After half term we will be looking at the topic 'Amazing animals.' The children will be learning about minibeasts, lifecycles and Spring/Easter. Our final topic will focus on the changes that the children can observe during Spring and about the story of Easter. In EYFS we aim to plan according to the interests of the children so our topic is very broad.

Literacy

In Literacy we will be continuing with Phase 1 phonics. It is a very important stage as it helps the children to distinguish and isolate sounds within the environment as well as hear rhythm and rhyme, alliteration and voice sounds. At the end of the phase the children will begin to orally segment and blend. The children will also continue to develop their fine motor skills through adult-led and child-initiated work, which in the long term will strengthen the children's pencil control skills.

Maths

We will continue to focus on our maths mastery skills such as counting and number recognition to five as well as measuring (capacity, length, weight), shape, space, and positional language/following routes.

In Expressive arts and design the children will be given many opportunities to express themselves creatively through art and craft, dance and music.

Library Books

We have started issuing library books again for the children. The children will bring home a new book to share with an adult at home on a Friday. Please ensure that books are returned to the Nursery the following Tuesday so we can assign new books the following Friday.

Letters, paintings and other work to be taken home will be distributed at the end of each session.

Mystery reader

We just love books, so are pleased to welcome back our 'Mystery Reader' event to Nursery. The idea is you or another family member brings in a book to read to the class. This can be a favourite book, a book from your childhood, or maybe a book read in another language. The children don't know who the 'Mystery Reader' is going to be until they appear and they have to try and work it out from some clues that you give us.

If you would like to be a mystery reader in your child's class, please complete the clue sheet and speak to a member of staff to arrange a convenient time. Further details and a clue sheet will be attached on tapestry (or ask a member of staff for a clue sheet). We look forward to hearing lots of stories from our visitors.

Tapestry

Thank you to those parents' adding observations on to Tapestry, it really does help us get a full picture of your child and their learning journey.

We will be adding memo's every Monday this half term which will include information on some of the things that we will be learning in class that week and important reminders. Please do check Tapestry regularly for observations and memos.

Lastly a few reminders:

Independence

The children have settled back into Nursery really well after the Christmas holiday. As we are now in the Spring Term, we are encouraging the children to be more independent with taking off and putting on their own shoes, coat, hats etc. Please can you practice this with your child at home and encourage them to be more independent in the morning, letting them take off their own coats. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Uniform

Please be aware that we go outside in ALL weathers so can you please ensure your child comes to school wearing the appropriate clothing.

Please could you ensure **ALL** items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's full name, including their shoes, gloves, hats, water bottles etc.

Please can all hair be tied up, no laces and no hooped earrings.

We are very limited for space in our cloakroom so please can we ask that your child only brings in a school bookbag daily and a lunchbox (if needed). Unfortunately, we do not have enough room on the pegs for backpacks.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Nursery session times

Please make every attempt to be punctual when dropping off and collecting your child to avoid unnecessary upset with the children.

Morning session 8:40am (gates are shut at 8:55am) till 11:40am

All day 8:40am until 2:40pm or 3:30pm

Afternoon session 12:30 until 3:30pm.

Collecting

Please make sure you inform a member of staff if someone else is collecting your child, a message can be left at the school office in the event of an emergency. We will not allow your child to leave nursery with someone we are not expecting without prior notice.

Accident forms

If your child has had an accident at home or on the way to school, please can you ensure that you inform a member of staff and you will be asked to fill out a pre-existing accident form which will be placed in our records. Thank you for your co-operation.

Snack

Snack money is £11 for the term. Please pay via the School Gateway app.

Birthdays

When your child has a birthday in Nursery, we like to celebrate it with them. We light the candles on our 'dummy cake', sing Happy Birthday' and give them a card and a birthday sticker. Some parents like to bring in treats for the other children in the class. Due to our 'Healthy Eating' policy, we request that you do not send in sweets. If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday, we suggest you purchase a book for the class library. We will insert a book plate inside the book, which would acknowledge that the book has been presented to the class by your child on that occasion of their birthday. Other ideas to share would be small cakes or fruit to eat at snack time, stickers, pencils, balloons ect. Of course, there is no obligation to send anything, the choice is entirely yours.

Dates for the Diary

Parents evening 21st March and 23rd March 2023

Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff if you have any queries, questions or worries concerning your child's time in Nursery, we are happy to help if we can. Finally, all the staff in the Nursery would like to wish everyone a happy and successful Spring Term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Briden, Miss Cannon and Mrs Karbovska