



Nursery Spring Term 1st Half Term Newsletter

Happy New Year!

Nursery staff

Class Teacher Mrs O'Brien
Nursery Nurse Mrs Small
Teaching assistant Mrs Clark

Experiences

On Tuesday 9th January we will have our WOW experience. We are going to be builders for the morning! We will think about what it is like to work on a building site, the noises we might hear, and the different machines that might be there. The children will work in small groups to mix cement and help to build a small brick wall. If you know a builder that would be happy to come and talk to the nursery children about their job, please let Mrs O'Brien know.



In the week beginning 5th February we will learn about Chinese New Year. We will practise using chopsticks, writing Chinese numbers and will create our own dragon dance.



Our family learning activity will take place on Thursday 8th February. Details to follow nearer the time.

Our topic this half term is

How does that building stay up?

This half term's topic encourages the children's thinking about materials and their uses. We will learn the names of different materials and learn vocabulary to describe them. We will be looking at different types of buildings in the area we live including our own homes, the high street and other important and useful buildings.

We will talk about their shape and size and compare them to famous buildings around the world.

Each week we will focus on a different traditional tale including the three little pigs, the three billy goats gruff and Goldilocks and the three bears. The children will act out the stories, talk about the characters and learn rhymes and songs related to the stories.

Our role play area inside will have a 'hairdressers' theme which will be added to, developed and adapted according to the children's interests, play and preferences.

Outside we have a 'library' roleplay and a building site. It would be great if you could take your child to visit a real library and talk to them about how a library is used.



We actively encourage parental involvement in your child's learning both at school and at home. We will use the information you give us to support your child in school and understand their development as a whole. Your contribution will also be put into your child's personal learning journey which is kept throughout their time in the Early Years.

Phonics

In Nursery we use 'Letters and Sounds' along with 'Jolly Phonics'. During the Spring Term we will be introducing the first five letter sounds

s, a, t, i and p.

Each week the children will learn the name of a new letter and the sound it makes. We will think about objects that begin with each sound and will play games to reinforce this. I spy is a great game to play at home to help children think about the first sound in a word. We will continue to follow Phase 1 of the letters and sounds programme alongside this which involves sharing rhyming stories, singing nursery rhymes, listening games and nature walks.



Home/School contact book

We ask that you stay in contact through your child's contact book. In these you can write messages to us and when you read with your child any comments about how they read.

Mrs. O'Brien is also available at the end of each Nursery session if there is anything important you wish to discuss.

On **Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February** we have parent consultations.





Nursery 1st Half Spring Term Newsletter p.2

Behaviour

We have an Assertive Discipline Behaviour Policy at Stanwell Fields called 'Stay on the sun' which states the expectations of a child's behaviour and the rewards that will be given throughout the school day. Our school rule is respect and we expect all children, parents and staff to show this to each other and property.



Good News Tree

Please remember to keep writing your child's achievements on the apples we have sent home. There are spare apples on our nursery notice board if needed. These will then be placed on our good news tree in our nursery entrance.

The children always show a sense of pride when their efforts have been recognised and this helps develop their self esteem.



Water bottles

Please send your child to school with a named clear plastic water bottle. The children can drink from these throughout the day. Please ensure you only put cold plain water in them. Thank you!

Maths

In Nursery we will learn to count, recognise and use numbers through play, number rhymes and stories. We will be learning about shapes and patterns in the world around us.

We will be practicing counting aloud to 10 and beyond and recognising numbers to 10. We will be thinking about numbers in our environment.



Encourage your child to look for numbers around the home, on your walk to school or a visit to the local supermarket. Please practise counting aloud with your child. What is the biggest number they know?

Reading

Your child will be able to choose a book from the library every Wednesday. These are for your child and yourselves to enjoy together, we do not expect your child to read it themselves. Encourage your child to look at the pictures and talk about them. Can the children name the characters in the story? Can the children predict what might happen next? Ask your child to discuss their favourite part of the story or maybe a part they didn't like?



Please ensure your library books are returned the following week so we can change them regularly.

We would appreciate it if you could teach your child to look after books and treat them with respect. We will ask parents/carers to pay a donation for any books that come back to school damaged or written on.

Ziggy



Ziggy is our new classroom bear. He will be sent home every Friday with a different child from Caterpillar class. Please enjoy taking him everywhere you go, to the park, shops or visiting family. Please write in the book about the fun you have had with Ziggy. You could include photos if you would like. Please return Ziggy to school on Monday morning so your child can share their special news with the rest of the class.

School admissions

The deadline for school applications is 15th January 2018. Please ensure you have applied online before this date. If you need any help with the application process, please see Mrs. O'Brien