

## NURSERY NEWSLETTER SPRING 1 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very happy New Year and warm welcome back from the Nursery team! We are so pleased with how the children have returned to Nursery. Our topic this term is...

### "Let's Pretend"

We will be starting the term by discussing our experiences of the theatre, plays and puppets and using this to create a **new theatre role play area** in the classroom (with a stage, dressing up and lots of opportunities to retell stories and experiences, as well as roleplaying working in the theatre by selling tickets and ushering people to their seats!) Do talk to your children about any experiences of the theatre or puppets they have, so they can share their knowledge. Pictures and 'WOW' slips welcome!

After this we will focus our learning around a **different traditional tale each week**, as detailed further on.

### Communication and Language

As well as our new role play area providing many opportunities for a broader development of language, we will continue with lots of speaking and listening games to build the children's confidence, understanding and concentration.

### Physical Development

The children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills. Nursery will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday with Mr Ellis, or on a Thursday with Miss de Souza. This half term pupils will focus on balance and movement. They will recap moving through agility ladders, learn to jump from height, land safely and travel on hands and feet. In addition the class will practice making different shapes and maintaining balance while moving along apparatus. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative games.

We are starting to focus on writing children's names this term, building on their fine motor skills. We will work on the tripod grip when holding a pencil. Please encourage your child to make marks, draw and write their name, in lower case letters, at home too!



The tripod grip

We are so pleased with the increased independence the children are starting to show when going to the toilet, washing their hands and putting outdoor clothes on! Please support their growing independence at home.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue our focus on how to play with others and share. They will be continuing to build relationships, play together and share with their peers: in our theatre they will have to negotiate different roles and play cooperatively, and will have to take turns with the costumes and puppets. We are encouraging the children to communicate their needs, wants and interests more confidently to others.

We will also be thinking about Dreams and Goals this half term and how we can persevere to achieve them.

### Literacy

As part of our topic we will do a lot of work around traditional tales and retelling them in various ways, focussing on a particular story each week as follows:

Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> Jan: Little Red Riding Hood

Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> Jan: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan: Three Billy Goats Gruff

Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> Jan: The Three Little Pigs

Week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> Feb: The Gingerbread Man

If you have copies please do these read these at home too, and share these with us at school! Children will also explore the books 'Stanley's Stick', 'Into the Forest' and 'Each Peach Pear Plum', which encourage them to use their imagination to pretend, and develop traditional tales in unusual ways.

We will consolidate the letter sounds we have already learnt (s,a,t,p,i,n) and continue to learn the following Jolly Phonics sounds:

8<sup>th</sup> Jan: c/k

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan: h

5<sup>th</sup> Feb: m

15<sup>th</sup> Jan: e

29<sup>th</sup> Jan: r

The class love the accompanying songs, which are all on youtube!

### Mathematics

Our number focus this term will be to consolidate numbers 1-10 and consistent understanding of number and quantity. In shape, space and measure we will be learning how to order by size and use positional language.

### Maths Packs

We hope that **Maths packs** will be able to go home each week starting soon. In order for this to happen **we need some kind volunteers to help distribute these** - you would need to have a **DBS check and have attended the parent volunteer induction, and be able to spare about 45**

minutes each week. Previously we have had two parents in during the first half of the week and another two during the second half of the week, and this works well.

We plan to send home maths packs on the last day of your child/ren's school week (Wednesday or Friday). **Please return your maths pack on the first day of the next week (Monday or Wednesday).** If you have any missing pieces, or have lost a maths pack, please write this on the maths pack card. Further instructions will be inside.

### Understanding the World

We will continue to observe the world around us, as the weather gets colder. We will focus more on the technology around us in the Nursery this term, interacting with keyboards, phones and other role-play appliances. We will also be cooking more regularly now we are settled and our Christmas celebrations are over.

### RE

Our half termly topic is "Who Cares for this Special World?" where we will be thinking more about Bible stories and what they tell us about God, using "The Jesus Storybook Bible".

### Expressive Art and Design

We have seen some incredible displays of imagination by the children so far! This half term we will plan imaginative play opportunities and a range of art projects linked to our topic "Let's Pretend", such as creating puppets, mask and paintings of characters from traditional tales. We will give the children time to paint characters and objects, focussing on drawing shapes then colouring them in to build up their picture.

We will be continuing to develop the children's musical awareness through singing known songs, as well as learning new ones and playing singing games. By putting actions to the words, the children will develop their sense of pulse, and we will explore more of the musical elements, for example tempo and dynamics, in the songs. They will be exploring how to create different sounds with musical instruments and how to express themselves through movement by listening to music.

### A couple of requests:

#### Punctuality

Could I remind everyone **that school starts at 8.55am, or 12.45pm on a Wednesday afternoon?** We have noticed that each day quite a few children have to be brought through the office later, particularly on a Wednesday afternoon, and this makes it difficult for the children to settle. We go straight onto a carpet session, and when this is interrupted by children coming in at various points this can be very disruptive for all! Please could you ensure you are in the playground a few minutes early - thank you so much.

### Clothing

As the weather gets colder please ensure your child remembers appropriate clothing; we spend a lot of time outside. Please make sure all **hats, gloves and scarves are all clearly labelled**. If you have any of Nursery's spare clothing, please return it to us as soon as possible - we are missing quite a bit from last term. We are also trying to gather some class wellies and umbrellas. If you have any to donate, along with any outgrown uniform, we would be very grateful.

### Class Email

If you do not receive the class email, please be in touch with me - I do send out important information and reminders through this. Please check your spam/junk folder, as we have reports that sometimes the emails can go to by default there.

### Ways to Help

**If you are able to volunteer to help with Maths Packs each week, this would be an enormous help - please talk to Miss de Souza.**

There is another opportunity to attend the parent volunteer induction on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2pm - please sign up in the office. You will need to attend this to be able to accompany our later trips to the farm and Fulham Palace minibeast hunt.

I am also hoping to invite in some 'people who help us' to talk to the children this half term. If anyone has one of these kind of jobs (doctor, fireman etc) and would be willing to come and tell us a little bit about what you do, the children would love it - please come and talk to me!

The children are really enjoying recyclable 'junk modelling', so please continue to bring in any **clean cardboard or plastic boxes/containers** throughout the year.

Please continue to send in any **WOW slips** so we can celebrate your child's special achievements at home - the document is on the Nursery section of the website.

Thank you so much for those who brought in the **family photograph and voluntary contribution of £40 for the year's cooking supplies**. It is not too late to give us either of these and they would be really appreciated: any money left over will be used to support the children's learning.

Thank you so much for all your continued support,

Best wishes,

Miss de Souza, Miss Martin and Mrs Baines