



NURSERY NEWSLETTER SPRING 1 2020

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, refreshed from the holidays. Welcome too to our four new starters!

Curriculum

Our topic this term is...

"Let's Pretend"

We have started 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 via the EExAT system 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.

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 the topic of "Dreams and Goals" this half term and how we can persevere to achieve them.

Physical Development

The children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills during free flow time and PE lessons with Mr Naughton or Miss de Souza. This half term pupils will play a range of games to focus on balance and movement. They will practice moving on hands and feet, and learning to jump from height and land safely.

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. We are starting to show children how to turn coat sleeves inside out for themselves.

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 13th Jan: Little Red Riding Hood

Week beginning 20th Jan: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Week beginning 27th Jan: Three Billy Goats Gruff

Week beginning 3rd Feb: The Three Little Pigs

Week beginning 10th 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 such as 'Whatever Next', 'Billy's Bucket', '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:

Week beginning 13th Jan: c/k

Week beginning 20th Jan: e

Week beginning 27th Jan: h

Week beginning 3rd Feb: r

Week beginning 10th Feb: m

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

Mathematics

Our number focus this term will be to make comparisons between different quantities, using words such as "the same", "more", "less" and "fewer". This can be a surprisingly difficult skill which needs lots of practice! We will continue to build our one to one correspondence when counting different amounts of objects.

In our Shape, Space and Measure learning we will be using more vocabulary to describe measures, such as size, weight, capacity and time, and learning to order objects by size.

Maths Packs and Sharing Books - Home Learning

We hope that **Home Learning packs** will be able to go home each week starting soon. This is optional, and takes the form of a little maths game, and a picture book to share together. Families have really enjoyed these in the past!

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 only have one kind helper so far. Please email Miss de Souza if you are able to volunteer your time weekly - thank you!** We will 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 learn about lots of the people who help us in our community during this term. If you have a job, such as a police officer, fireman or dentist, and would be able to come and talk about it to the classes they would absolutely love it! Previous years have learnt a lot! Do email Miss de Souza if you would be able volunteer your time.

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:

*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 completely out of socks!** 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.



* Please continue to bring in any **clean cardboard or plastic boxes/containers** throughout the year - we will use these for 'junk modelling' activities, which the children love! If you have any spare **plastic bags** from shopping, please do bring these in too - we get through quite a few!

* Please continue to send in photos and evidence into the EExAT online system. We love to see these, and we share them on the carpet with the whole class!

* 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.

Volunteers Needed:

My main plea is for people to sign up to volunteer for trips coming up for the rest of the year. This would really really help, and they are a lot of fun too! Without parent volunteers these trips are unlikely to go ahead.

If you are able to help with any of the following dates please do email Miss de Souza as soon as possible and let me know.

- Monday 2nd and Thursday 5th March - possible Garden Centre trip in the morning. **4 volunteers needed for each date**
- Thursday 7th and Monday 11th May - Fulham Palace Minibeast Hunt (11am until the end of the day) **4 volunteers needed for each date**
- Wednesday 24th June - Bocketts Farm Trip (all day, all children) **7 volunteers needed for this date**
- Weekly help (approx. 45 mins) to distribute Maths Packs/Sharing Books (see section above on p3). **3 more volunteers needed**

In order to volunteer you will need to have a DBS through St Mary's School, and have attended the parent/carer volunteer induction. The final one for the year is next Tuesday 14th January at 2pm-3pm. Please sign up in the office.

*As in the Understanding the World section above I am also looking for 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! No need for a DBS for this one.

Dates for the Diary:

14th January 2pm - last parent volunteer induction

*Wednesday 12th February 11.00 OR Thursday 13th February 2.45 - **Parents invited into the classroom for our end of topic celebration.** (Wednesday for first half, Thursday for second half and full time children)*

Friday 20th March - Mother's Day Service

Thank you so much for all your continued support,

Best wishes,

Miss de Souza and the Nursery Team