

Newsletter 30th September 2016

Meet the Teacher & Tapestry

We held our meet the teacher meeting on Wednesday this week and thank you to everyone who could attend. I have attached the presentation from the meeting for those of you who were unable to attend. We shared information about phonics, maths and our electronic learning journal - Tapestry. You will be sent a password via email to activate the journal. Once you have received this it must be used within 24 hours or it will be void. Once you have received the password you will be able to view your child at work and add observations which will feed into their learning journey and enhance their learning. If you have any problems please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team.

Phonics

In phonics this week we have learnt the sounds d, g and o. We have been working with the children on using the existing sounds we know and blending them together to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, and consonant) such as cat, tap, got. This can be quite tricky initially and we will continue to work with the children each day within the phonics session to develop this skill and their confidence. We have been working on pencil control and correct pencil grip. In Maths lessons we have been using the Numicon resource looking at different ways to make a variety of numbers. The children have developed a lot of confidence in the short time we have been in school and it is delightful to see. We have had a local school visit our setting this week to observe how the children work with the Numicon. They were very impressed and it is to the team's credit that this happens regularly due to extensive training and praise from the local authority and the maths team.

Assessment

As an Early Years Team each year we complete a "baseline assessment" on each child which is then used to inform our planning and assessment data. We make an assessment as to where your child is working at this present time (4weeks into the academic year). We have used the information provided by your pre-school setting to guide us. We have put some observations of your children on Tapestry.

School environment

We have spent some time with the children looking at the school environment to familiarise them with their new setting. We have met different members of the school team and talked about their role. We have shared with them our expectations of behaviour and care of the school equipment.

Mystery Reader

If you would like to be a "Mystery Reader" for our children we would love to talk to you. As a parent/Grandparent you arrive at school with a favourite story to share with the children. We ask that you keep it a secret as it is a wonderful surprise for the children at the end of the day when you appear. Please speak to a member of the EY team to arrange a time that is convenient.

Next Week

Our phonemes this week will be **m, k and ck**. We will focus on the actions associated with these letter sounds (we follow Jolly Phonics) and have a variety of games and activities to support this. In maths we will look at 2D shapes, extending their knowledge of a wider variety of shapes and progress through the week on to 3D shapes. We will look at their properties, sort them and look for them in our environment. We will spend some time this week writing the children's first names. We will use a name card as a prompt to support their learning and focus on letter recognition and letter formation and correct pencil grip.

Homework

Thank you so much for the lovely homework on 2D shapes when you have been out as families. The children love to share their work with their peers. The homework is always in the newsletter on Friday and will be shared on the following Friday.

As the seasons are definitely changing now - autumn has arrived! We would like you to spend some time with your children collecting autumn leaves, conkers, acorns and sycamore leaves, pine cones and beech nuts for our investigation table. The children have noticed the leaves changing colours in our garden and it would develop their learning further. We will encourage the children to handle and sort the autumn collection independently as a challenge task. We will encourage the children to use the "junk modelling" area this week and we look forward to the children making some super models.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs K Heywood

Mrs Z Richardson