



Westfield Nursery School
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Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Collins BA(QTS) NPQH



October 2019

Newsletter No 2

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head Teacher

What a wonderful start to the year we have had. The returning children have settled so well back into the Nursery routine and are already busy planning and doing! Our new starters are getting used to their new setting and are already learning the names of the children in their class and starting to explore their environment and make friends.

So many of the children are already saying hello and goodbye to me as they enter and leave Nursery which is lovely.

Thank you for amazing support of the Nursery, we see this through the fruit donations and the information sharing at drop off times and collection times, we also saw it at our MacMillan Coffee morning. The staff are proud to work at Westfield and we hope you are pleased that you chose Westfield as your child's 'golden ticket' into the education system.

Please remember if anything is worrying you, talk to your child's keyworker or class leader. I am usually on the gate at drop off and collect times if you would like to speak to me. Previous experience has taught us that little worries can usually be resolved quickly when we work together.

Please note that we do have a number of students and work experience pupils in school this term. The children always enjoy having extra helpers to learn with. Mrs Ghent a previous staff member is also volunteering in Butterfly class on a Tuesday- we are delighted to have such an expert volunteer.



Dunstable in Bloom

I have some exciting news to share. Westfield Nursery won four prizes at the recent awards night for Dunstable in Bloom. Dunstable in Bloom Wheelie Fantastic 2019- First Place for Bumble Bees, Dunstable in Bloom Wheelie Fantastic 2019- Second Place for Nursery and Best School's Floral Display 2019. This year following success in the past two years we were also entered into Anglia in Bloom and we also received a Recognition of Effort Certificate.

I would like to thank the children who planted and watered, the families who donated a range of plants, compost, pots and artefacts to stimulate the senses (this year's theme) as well as all the staff who worked so hard. A special mention must be given to Mrs Ghent who organised the entry for Bumble Bees, Miss Shaw who organised the event for Nursery and Miss Palmer and Mrs Ghent who represented the Nursery at the awards night.



Our learning in September

As a focus for all children we are encouraging children to put on and do up their own coats- very important now the weather is changing. Can you support this at home by encouraging your child to put on their own coat? Once that has been mastered- give doing up the zip a go.





In Ladybirds class the children have enjoyed writing in sand- they have found the initial letter of their name and have then written the letter. The children have been talking about the signs of Autumn, discussing the weather and the natural objects they can find such as sticks and leaves. They have been describing and comparing objects before using them to create pictures.



The children in Caterpillars class have also been discussing Autumn, exploring objects such as leaves, pinecones and conkers. Describing and comparing these before using them for painting. The children are also enjoying role play and creative activities- a birthday themed role play area and making cakes using play dough. Lots of counting of candles and discussing different experiences of birthdays has developed their language and vocabulary.



Butterflies have been fully immersed in sensory play using a whole range of materials, such as sand, cooked spaghetti, dough and natural materials. The children have been using language to describe what they see and feel, for example describing different textures. The dolls house has sparked some lovely co-operative play with discussion about different homes and families.



In Bumble Bees the children have also been exploring signs of Autumn and creating autumn trees. The children have loved exploring outside, developing their gross motor skills with an obstacle course of bricks and steps. They have been using the language of measures when playing with a variety of pots in the sand, such as full, empty and half full.

Outside we have enjoyed a variety of play- the planters have been re-potted; Bumble bees have planted spring onions and rocket and we have used a range of small games equipment and ride on toys.

Home Learning Challenge

Each half term we send home a 'my home learning challenge'. This is an activity for your child to try at home, with your support. The first challenge has a seasonal flavour- to support children's creative play we are asking them to make an autumn picture- see separate sheet. Once your child has created their picture please bring it to Nursery so they can talk to their class about what they used, what they did and what they have made. The work is then displayed to show your children how we value their efforts, and this also inspires other children.



Passport

Have you completed any of the activities on your passport? Staff have star stampers at the ready to stamp each activity you and your child to do together. Your child will enjoy spending time with you doing things together. Yahya in Butterflies class has almost completed all the activities- a fantastic achievement!



Fruit

Thank you for your kindness and generosity with fruit donations.



Gates

Please be aware that the Beecroft School gates are locked between 8.30 and 9.00am and 3.00 and 3.30pm. This is to ensure the safety of the children as they come to and leave from school. We know that local parking can be problematic, we want to keep our neighbours happy so please park considerately.



Drop off and Collection Times

Morning sessions drop off is between 8.45-8.55am and collection between 11.40-11.45am. Afternoon sessions drop off is between 12.30-12.35pm and collection between 3.15-3.30pm. The gate will be locked at 11.45am and 3.30pm. After this time please collect your child from the school office.



Illness

If you are worried your child is ill, please do not bring them to Nursery to protect the health of the other children and staff; **Please note that we have a number of children in Nursery who have chicken pox.**



Baby & Toddler Group

Toddler group will be held in Honeybees (next to Bumble Bees and entered via the side entrance). The group operates on a drop- in basis from 9.00-10.30am and we ask only a donation of £1.00 per session to cover fruit and craft resources.



Autumn Clothing

Thank you for sending your child into school with wellies on wet days and **sending them with a change of shoes** so they can change for indoor learning times. The children are doing well with changing their own shoes! It is also good to see so many children with warm coats. Thank you.



Library

We have a lending library of both fiction (story) and non- fiction (information) books for you to borrow to enjoy sharing with your child. These are kept between the office and the classrooms. Please come in as you collect your child to borrow a book. You can come here to change your book as often as you like!



Change of Personal Details

Please remember: It is very important that we hold current emergency phone numbers for you should we need to contact you. If you change your number, let us know.



Uniform

We do have uniform available for the children to wear. Benefits include it stopping those outfit arguments and it being easy to wash. Please ask at the school office for further details about sizes and costs.



Reading Book

Each week your child will have the opportunity to borrow and enjoy a 'reading book'. This book is to share with your child talking about the pictures, telling a story, discussing the characters. Please return a book before borrowing the next- thank you. Ladybirds can change their book on Wednesday, Caterpillars book change day is Tuesday and Butterflies change their books on a Tuesday.

WOW

If your child does something new at home, please share this with your child's class leader. This can be anything- using new words, trying a new activity, visiting a new place etc...We love to share all successes.



Names

Gentle reminder-Please name all items your child wears and brings to Nursery; For example, hats, jumpers, coats and bags. If you do, we can easily return lost property to its rightful owner.



MacMillan Coffee and Cake Event

Thank you for your amazing generosity in baking/ buying cakes and making donations for our MacMillan Coffee morning. We raised an amazing total of £128.00.



Harvest

Please remember to send in gifts of tins and packets between now and Monday 14th October. These are for the Salvation Army.



Children in Need

On Friday 15th November we will be wearing spots and doing spotty activities for Children in Need (children only). If would like to donate for Children in Need we will have collection pots on the gate.



Stay and Play Day

On Monday 4th November we are holding our first 'Stay and Play Day' of the year. Please join us for the session your child attends to find out more. Parents of the children in Bumble Bees do not attend stay and play days as this can unsettle our youngest children.



Don't forget to apply for School Places

If your school is due to start school in September 2020 applications are now open. Schools must offer a child a full-time place in the September, following their fourth birthday. If you are applying for a place to start school, you have until Wednesday 15 January 2020 to make an application.



To apply for a place online visit <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions>

If you prefer, you can also complete a paper application form – these are available by either emailing the school admissions team, calling 0300 300 8037, or writing to School Admissions, Central Bedfordshire Council, Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, LU6 1LF.

School Open Day

A message from Beecroft Academy: Is your child starting school in September 2020? Come and see the school in action at our open days on Monday 4th November, Tuesday 12th November or Wednesday 20th November. To book your appointment, please call 01582 663 486 or email office@beecroftacademy.co.uk



Key Dates

Please book the following dates into your calendar- further details about some events will follow in future Newsletters.



October

Monday 7th- Monday 14th October- Collection of Harvest Goods for Salvation Army

Tuesday 15th October- Harvest Celebration (children only)

Please note the following new date:

Friday 18th October- Individual Class Photos

Monday 21st- Friday 25th October Half Term

Home learning Challenge- Maths- details to follow

Wednesday 30th October- Jack and the Beanstalk production (children only)

November

Monday 4th November- Curriculum stay and play day (Ladybirds, Caterpillars, Butterflies Class parents welcome to join the session)

Monday 11th November - Friday 15th November 2019 is anti-bullying week- we will be having a 'friendship week' at Nursery (children only).

Monday 11th November- Consultations Ladybirds

Tuesday 12th November- Consultations Caterpillars

Wednesday 13th November- Consultations Bumble Bees

Thursday 14th November- Consultations Butterflies

Friday 15th November- Children in Need (children only)

Wednesday 20th November- Beep Beep day (Road safety awareness- children only)

December

Please note the following date change:

Wednesday 11th December- Nativity 10.30am for 10.45am start/ 1.45am for 2.00pm start @ Beecroft Community Centre- Parents/ carers are invited to watch (NOT Tuesday 10th December as previously notified)

Monday 16th December- Christmas party with a special visitor! (children only)

Friday 20th December Last Day of term

Yours Faithfully,

Mrs Collins,
Headteacher