



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



January 2 2023

Newsletter No 10 2022-2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

Well done to all our returning children who have helped our new starters settle. Well done to all the new starters for settling so well!



Communication updates

If there are any changes to

- medication (for example, your child starts a new medication)
- allergies
- phone number
- address
- emergency contacts

PLEASE update the school office immediately. It is very important we hold current information in case of any emergencies, thank you.

Our Learning

Children in Bumblebees have been focusing on the vocabulary related to snack time, such as banana, breadstick and jug. They have also been extending vocabulary to include watermelon and kiwi. Children have been exploring a variety of chopped fruit in the water and tuff spot tray. In the sand tray they have been using utensils used at snack time such as plates and jugs. Last week the focus text was 'The Big Hungry Bear' all about a strawberry and this week the focus text has been 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' which introduces lots of fruit eaten by the caterpillar each day.



Dragonflies class are thinking about transport and travel. They have talked about how they travel to Nursery and other ways they recall travelling in the past. The children have been building train tracks and exploring boats in the tuff spot tray. One child said, 'My boat is floating!' The key text has been 'The Train Ride.' This rhythmic text explores what a child can see when looking out of a train window.



Ladybirds' children are focusing on 'Once Upon a Time.' The Key Text has been 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' Children have been retelling the story using bears, bowls, spoons and porridge oats. This also introduces number and size vocabulary too. Children have been using a variety of dressing up outfits to make believe and tell their own narratives. In the mark making area children have been making character puppets on lollipop sticks and using them to write their own stories.



The focus in Caterpillars class has also been once upon a time but they have used 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' as the key text. Children have been using props to retell the story on the tuff spot tray. They have been using a sequence picture and props in the mark making area to write about the story. The children have also been using playdough for storytelling. They have learnt a song to help learn about the story too.



Butterflies class are learning about people who help us. In each area of the class, they are focusing on a different person. In the mark making area they are thinking about teachers- and have the opportunity to act as the teacher for 'message board.' They have been thinking about builders in the construction area using wooden and foam blocks to build. In the role play area they have been 'vets' looking after animals. They have also been thinking about dentists, firefighters and police officers. The key text has been 'Going to the Dentist,' and the children have been learning the importance of oral health.



Bank Holiday

We have been informed there is another scheduled bank holiday on Monday 8th May for the King's Coronation. Nursery will be CLOSED.



30 Hour Codes

If your child is in Butterflies or Caterpillars and stays all day, please do not forget that the 30 hour code needs to be revalidated each term.



Absences

PLEASE tell us why your child is not at Nursery. We do have to keep registers and monitor attendance. You can ring in, email via office@westfieldnurseryschool.org or email via parent mail. Thank you.



Why is Early Reading Important?

There are lots of reasons to read/ enjoy sharing and talking about books with your child. There is a lot of research available to support the fact that it helps brain development, language development, strengthens family relationships and builds a picture of the world outside of our own.

Did you know...

- Studies have shown that those who read for pleasure have higher levels of self-esteem and a greater ability to cope with difficult situations.
- A study by the Institute for Education found that those who read for pleasure have a 14.4% advantage in vocabulary and a 9.9% advantage in math, compared to their peers.
- It's been found that reading enhances our attention spans: the structure of stories helps kids' brains process things in sequence, which holds their attention for longer and enables clear thinking.
- Reading books for pleasure will help improve self-esteem and confidence, enabling us to reach our goals.
- Reading helps aid our sleep.

<https://kidadl.com/education-learning/incredible-facts-about-reading-and-books-you-wont-believe-your-eyes>

- The three top reasons children enjoy being read to are that 'It is a special time with my parents', 'Reading together is/was fun' and 'It is relaxing to be read to before I go to sleep'

<https://www.annabelkarmel.com/advice/reading-to-children-vocab/>

- A study in the USA showed starting in kindergarten (age 5), if a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade (11-12 years) and on standardized tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

<https://www.wcpo.com/brand-spotlight/how-reading-20-minutes-a-day-impacts-your-child>

Early Reading at Home

Click the link to find a useful article about early reading. <https://theconversation.com/learning-to-read-starts-earlier-than-you-might-think-five-tips-from-an-expert-171561>

Five tips to support early reading for children aged under three.

1. Create a chatty environment
2. Have fun with rhythm and music making
3. Share meaningful images (see explanation of logo books below)
4. Draw attention to print in everyday life



Engage with books frequently (our library is now open daily!)

Early Reading at Nursery

We have reading areas in each class and outside for children to self access books. In each area children can access books both fiction (story) and non-fiction (information) books, linked to the theme or learning in class. Children also use books in other areas such as at the mark making table.



At large group times adults enjoy reading and sharing a story with children. They may use big books, story sacks or props to support children listening to, enjoying and talking about a range of books.



Each class also has a 'logo' book in the reading area, which includes pages about drinks, foods, films, apps, schools, home items, supermarkets, fast food, the high street and TV programmes. Children can spot meaningful images.



In the reading area there is also a book of child- friendly policies. These cover the work of the nursery such as the curriculum and safeguarding. There are pictures (and simple explanations) to spark conversations.



Children self-register when they enter their classroom. They have to 'read' their name card and put it on display. They can access their name card at any point, for example if they want to use it to support them writing their own name on a picture.



For each theme we use our knowledge and vocabulary sheets (on the curriculum tab of the website) to select some key words. We display these key words using picture prompts to support the children using the words during their learning.



Book Castle and Library

Our library remains open and this is a great way to see the displays in the entrance hall- currently Miss Palmer's African trip, The Christmas party, Governors, oral health and the key text for this term. To visit the library just come to the office and you will be buzzed in. The library has specific books such as our dual language books.



To encourage further access to books at home we have also set up the book castle which will be outside on dry days so you can easily borrow a book as you drop off, or collect.

Recommended Read

Try reading 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff: Ladybird First Favourite Tales.' This traditional tale also introduces some Maths such as numbers to three and size. Children also love doing the troll voice!



National Story Telling Week (Monday 30th Jan to Friday 3rd February)

Try to retell a story using props. For example, 'Story Puppets- Three Little Pigs' (You can use any story)



You will need:

- Four wooden spoons
- Book
- Lego Bricks
- Sticks
- Straws

What you need to do:

1. Gather the items needed for your story.
2. Use the props as you tell the story from the book
3. Encourage the child to interact with the props, for example building each house using straw, sticks or bricks.

Try to retell a story using playdough. For example, 'The Gruffalo' (You can use any story)

You will need:

- Purple and brown Playdough



- Pouch caps/Bottle lids
- Pasta
- Tray
- Gruffalo Book (You can find the story on YouTube if you do not have the book)

Using materials such as playdough is a great way to retell a story. Read or listen to the Gruffalo story on YouTube. Talk about the book and discuss the characters. Once you have read the book, gather the supplies. If you don't have the perfect materials, don't worry. Provide a variety of options and let your children use their creativity and knowledge to solve the problem. Encourage your child to create the Gruffalo talking about which creature will be next in the book. Enjoy creating his terrible tusks, and terrible claws, his turned-out toes, and the poisonous wart at the end of his nose. Encourage them to re-tell parts of the story whilst also creating their own versions of the Gruffalo.

Westfield Nursery School Curriculum- Narrative

Repeats and uses actions, words or phrases from familiar stories (24-36 months)

Develops play around favourite stories using props (36-48 months)

Uses vocabulary and forms of speech that are increasingly influenced by their experiences of reading (48-60 months)

Re-enacts and reinvents stories they have heard in their play (48-60 months)

If you would like to email a photograph of what you did we would love to see it! (see emails below)

Drop off and collection times Reminder

There has been a lot of disruption at the beginning and end of sessions, wherever possible please use the session times below, thank you.

	Bumblebees	Dragonflies and Ladybirds	Caterpillars and Butterflies
AM Drop off time	8.45-8.55am	8.45-8.55am	8.35-8.45am
AM Collection time	11.35-11.45am	11.35-11.45am	Lunch in classroom
PM Drop off time	-	12.30-12.40pm	Not applicable
PM Collection time	-	3.20-3.30pm	3.10-3.20pm

Home Learning Reminder

If you have completed the number activity, please email a picture to your child's class.

bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org

dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org

caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org

butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org



Coffee Morning Reminder

Please join us for coffee and cake (or tea and biscuits) on Friday 27th January as you drop off your child from 8.35-9.45am and 12.30-1.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.



Toddler Group Reminder

Toddler group every Thursday 1.00-2.30pm in term time.



SOS Schools Closure Alerts: Snow / Bad Weather Alert Reminder

Please can you ensure that the office have your up-to-date mobile numbers and email addresses.

The information will be available via the Central Bedfordshire School's Open Status (SOS) system. You will need to register to receive updates:

- Type in the following: <https://apps.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/apps/sos/>
- Click on 'register for updates' and fill in the text boxes
- Click on 'submit'



Please do not try to ring a radio station to find out if the school is closed.

We will also send a parentmail and put a message on the welcome page of the website. Please check we are open before travelling. School will not be open if it is not safe.

School Readiness (Taken from the 'Starting School' leaflet on the website.)

Can your child talk to an adult and explain their needs?

Young children can get very frustrated when they need something but the grown up does not understand what they mean. They need to learn the correct vocabulary for their everyday needs. For example, in explaining they are hungry or thirsty/ hot or cold.



What we do: We encourage children to 'use their words' to tell us what they want to do in work time, which drink and fruit they would like at snack time, when they want the toilet. If they get upset staff encourage them to explain why. We support children in coming up with ideas and solutions. Children are always encouraged to tell a grown up if there is ever a time they do not feel safe.

What you can do: You know best what your child wants and needs but wait until they have used their words to ask for what they want. Give two choices and let your child tell you which they prefer, for example between two books.

Key Dates this Term

Friday 27th January. Join us for coffee and cake 8.35-9.45am or 12.30-1.30pm

Monday 30th Jan to Friday 3rd February. National Storytelling Week.

Tuesday 7th February. Safer Internet Day

Thursday 2nd March. World Book Day

Thursday 2nd March. Stay and Play day (not in Bumblebees)

Monday 13th- Friday 17th March. British Science Week

Sunday 19th March. Mother's Day, celebrated on Friday 17th March. Singing event at 11.15am & 2.45pm

Monday 20th March. Consultations Dragonflies

Tuesday 21st March. Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

Tuesday 21st March. World Poetry Day

Tuesday 21st March. Consultations Ladybirds

Wednesday 22nd March. Consultations Butterflies

Thursday 23rd March. Consultations Caterpillars

Friday 24th March. Consultations Bumblebees

Thursday 23rd March. Last toddler group of the term

Thursday 30th March. Last day of Spring term

Friday 31st March. Nursery closed for pupils

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

Details of each of
these will follow in
later newsletters.

Term Dates

13.02.23-17.02.23 Half Term School closed

31.03.23-14.04.23 Easter Holiday School closed

01.05.23 Bank Holiday School closed

08.05.23 Bank Holiday School closed

29.05.23-02.06.23 Half Term School closed

21.07.23 Last day of Summer Term

