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Newsletter No 6 2025-2026

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head Teacher

The sun is shining this morning- how lovely children can make the most of the outside learning environment! It has been a busy term. Thank you for your ongoing support. Have a wonderful Easter holiday and we look forward to seeing you for the summer term.



Our learning

Bumblees children were learning about food. The key text was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar.' The key words were apple, banana, cup and jug. The children made toast, printed with fruits and explored fruits with tweezers and pipettes. Now the children are learning all about getting dressed. The key text is 'Good Morning PB Bear.' The keywords are coat, hat, gloves, pants, knickers and socks. The children are role playing washing, hanging out the clothes on a washing line, ironing and putting clothes on the babies. They have made hats and t-shirts as well as exploring the textures of different fabrics.



In Dragonflies the children were learning about 'Once Upon a Time'. The key text was 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' The key vocabulary was bear, Goldilocks, porridge, chair, bed and some children were also learning the words character, beginning and end. The children were role playing the story. They also tried eating porridge. Now the children are learning about Easter. The key text is 'The First Easter'. The key words are egg, Easter egg, Easter bunny, hot cross bun, chick and celebration. Children have enjoyed making with the dough and Easter cutters, decorating Easter eggs and matching numbered eggs.



Ladybirds class were learning about 'Once Upon a Time.' The key text was 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff.' The keywords were goat, troll and bridge. The children retold the story with props. They enjoyed reading traditional tales in the reading area and even explored the illustrations with magnifying glasses. Some children made up their own narratives using the pirate ship resources. Now the children are learning about Easter. The key text is 'Easter.' The key words are Easter, egg, bunny, Spring and decoration. The children have been developing their creative skills making cards, baskets and nests. They have also enjoyed making with the dough and using Easter cutters.



Caterpillars class were learning about 'Once Upon a Time.' The key text was 'The Three Little Pigs.' The key vocabulary was straw, stick and brick with children also being introduced to the words title and character. Children acted out the story using props and puppets as well as drawing pictures from the story. Children were also matching quantities to numerals. Now the children are learning about people who help us. The key text is 'People Who Help Us.' The key words are doctor, nurse, patient, farmer, paramedic and builder. Children have a doctors role play to make narratives. They have been discussing who helps us in the community and jobs their parents or carers do. They have been name writing in the sensory tray.



In Butterflies they were learning about 'Once Upon a Time.' Their key text was 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. The key vocabulary included title, character, setting, beginning and end. Children used props to retell the story and made their own narratives using the puppet show and in pictures. Now the children are learning about Easter. The key text is 'The Golden Egg'. The key vocabulary is Easter, celebration, egg and bunny. The children have been making patterns on Easter eggs, making with the dough and using Easter cutters.



Recommended Read

Try reading the well-known traditional tale 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' Can you role model using different voices for the three bears and for Goldilocks? Can your child retell the story?



World Book Day

The children really enjoyed world book day- thanks to those who shared favourite books. Those who chose to dress up looked great and children really enjoyed the day with their friends. Staff got into the spirit of the day by dressing up and acting out and sharing stories too. My thanks to them.



British Science Week

This year the focus was on- Curiosity: What's Your Question?

The theme allowed children to show curiosity and be observant. For example, the children in Dragonflies saw if they could make dirty water clean and they made a bubble snake using food colouring, bubble mixture, a bottle and sock.



Home Learning

Don't forget to send in your home learning challenge for this half term which was a reading-based challenge. We would love to see the photos you share with your child reading somewhere unusual. Send the photo to your child's class:



Bumblebees- bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Dragonflies- dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Ladybirds- ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Caterpillars- caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Butterflies- butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

A home learning sheet is attached so you can keep us informed about what your child learns at home. Paper copies are available in the entrance hall.

Madge (Mothers, Aunties, Daughters, Grandmothers and Everybody else) Day

Thank you to those who were able to come to the stay and play day- it was lovely to see so many of you. This is a great opportunity for you to see what your child learns at Nursery inside and outside and talk to the staff. The children really enjoyed the day. Thank you for your comments which have been shared on the testimonials section of the website. There are some lovely photos from the day- please come and see the display in the library area.



Maths at Nursery

At Nursery there are two strands to our Maths curriculum- one focussed on number and the other focused on shape, space, pattern and measures. We always have a Mathematics area as part of our continuous provision. Key vocabulary: number names, count, more, less, fewer, big, small, bigger, smaller, biggest, smallest, full, empty, half full, heavy, light, heavier, lighter, match, sort, same, different, circle, square, triangle, oblong, straight, curved, corner, side, pattern, repeat, first, next, before, after, on, off, in front, behind, next to, in, out
Extended Vocabulary:
amount, equal, add, subtract, forwards, backwards, turn, sphere, cube, cuboid, prism, pyramid, faces, vertices.

We also find lots of Mathematics in all we do, such as counting or using comparative language.

What do you need to know?

Numerals = The words or symbols to represent numbers

Comparison = The process in which one can determine whether a number is smaller, greater, or equal to another number according to their values

Ordinality = The capacity to place numbers in sequence

Cardinality = Expressing the quantity of a set

Composition = Knowing numbers are made up of two or more other smaller numbers

Perceptual subitising= Seeing and recognising how many

Conceptual subitising= This is where children see larger patterns and can break down the amount into smaller groups using mental maths strategies

Spatial awareness = An organised awareness of the objects in the space around us

Shape = A geometric figure

Pattern = A repeated decorative design

Measure = The size, amount, of something e.g. length, mass, time

Shape Knowledge

A circle has one side which curves all the way round.

A triangle has 3 angles.

A square has four sides all the same length and four right angled corners.

An **oblong** has two long sides and two short sides and four right angled corners. (Both squares and oblongs are rectangles).

A pentagon has five sides and five corners.



Children should get used to seeing shapes in a range of sizes and orientations.

Maths at Home Ideas

-Find numbers in the environment (e.g. door numbers or number plates)

-Play simple dice games e.g. snakes and ladders or beetle drive

-Make a collection (buttons/ shells/ coins) and sort the objects; Count the objects.

-Use straws and marshmallows what shapes can you make?

-Go on a shape hunt e.g. what shape is the light switch? What shape is the window?

-Count and measure with blocks such as Duplo.

-Draw around the feet of everyone in your household cut them out- order them by size; use feet to measure different things around the house.

-Measure whilst you bake/ cook together.

-Fill some tubs with a range of objects- order them by mass.



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

There are certain skills which will support your child in being ready for their life at school.

Can your child talk in sentences?

Children are like sponges! They generally soak up language and learning quickly. You need to model how to speak correctly in complete sentences. Although it can be endearing when children use their 'baby talk vocabulary' as they get ready for school encourage speaking in sentences and the use of correct vocabulary. Research shows that children with greater language have better life chances.



New Resources

We have some wonderful new resources at Nursery to benefit the children's learning and development. These include sensory boxes and other sensory resources, small games equipment, phonics resources, Maths resources, small games equipment, and fine motor skills equipment, resources to support the learning themes and even new carpets, beanbags and soft furnishings.



New Starter Questionnaires

Thank you for returning the new starter questionnaires- these were so positive. Don't forget if you have any worries or questions please ask.



Monitoring Feedback

Our Safeguarding link governor has checked our Single Central Record which meets the requirements set. Our curriculum link governor has been in to monitor phonics. She stated 'A wide variety of activities was seen including nursery rhymes, body percussion, the use of percussion instruments, listening and responding activities. All activities were age and stage appropriate and appealing to the children. The resources that were used supported the activities well and assisted focus and engagement as well as providing a context. All staff provided good learning opportunities for the children and used appropriate subject related vocabulary and demonstrated where necessary. The sessions seen were short and well-paced which aided children's focus. Some incidental phonics was seen i.e. this person's name begins with a 'j'. A clear difference between the oldest and youngest pupils could be seen which points to the progress children make during their time at nursery.'



Health and Safety

Please remember

- Use the lock at the top of the gate after you have come through to keep children safe.
- Not to let your child use the equipment as you collect
- Your child may well need a helmet travelling by bike or scooter

Toddler Group

Toddler Group is term time only so there is **no** Toddler Group on Monday 30th March, Monday 6th April and Monday 13th April. Toddler group will resume on Monday 20th April.



Key Dates this Term

Monday 23rd March. Last toddler group of the term

Friday 27th March. Last day of Spring term

Monday 30th March-Monday 13th April Nursery Closed- Easter holidays

Tuesday 14th April. First Day of Summer term

**DATES TO
REMEMBER**

Easter Holiday Ideas

Potato Easter Egg Printing

You will need:

- Potatoes
- Paper
- Paint
- Knife

Method:

1. Ask a grown up to carefully carve a pattern into the potato that has been cut in half.
2. Carefully paint the potato with paint
3. Print onto paper

This will help your child's fine motor and artistic skills.



Easter Egg Wreath

You will need:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Ribbon
- Glue

Method:

1. Cut a paper circle
2. Cut egg shapes
3. Decorate the eggs with patterns
4. Stick the eggs onto the circle
5. Add ribbon to hang the wreath

This will develop your child's fine motor, Maths and artistic skills.



Easter Egg Threading

You will need:

- Card
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Wool or ribbon
- Large sized blunt needle
- Tape

Method:

1. Cut a large egg shape out of card
2. Hole punch some holes into the cards
3. Thread wool or ribbon between the holes using the needle
4. Attach the ends of the wool/ string on the back using the tape

This will develop your child's fine motor skills.



Easter Holidays

Don't forget to check the activities being run locally including the children's centre and library. The children's centre timetable is also attached for next term.



Faith Celebrations in March and April (<https://equality.leeds.ac.uk/>)

3rd March: Buddhism: Magha Puja Day

3rd* March: Judaism: Purim

4th March: Hinduism and Sikhism: Holi

4th – 6th March: Sikhism: Holla Mohalla

19th March Hinduism: Ugadi/Samvatsaradi and Gudi Padwa

19th** – 20th March: Islam: Eid-al-Fitr

19th – 27th March: Hinduism: Vasant Navrati

26th March: Hinduism: Ram Navami

29th March: Christianity: Palm Sunday

1st April: Hinduism: Hanuman Jayanti

2nd* – 9th April: Judaism: Pesach

3rd April: Christianity: Good Friday

5th April: Christianity: Easter Sunday

13th April: Buddhism: Theravada New Year

13th – 15th April: Buddhism: Songkran (Water Festival)

14th April: Sikhism: Vaisakhi

Best wishes if you are celebrating a special celebration.

* - observation begins at sunset on the previous day
** - observation begins at the sighting of the moon