



Westfield Nursery School
Westfield Road, Dunstable, Beds. LU6 1DL. Tel: 01582
608650
Email office@westfieldnurseryschool.org
Website www.westfieldnurseryschool.org
Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Collins BA(QTS) NPQH



May 2023

Newsletter No 16 2022-2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Our learning

In Bumblebees the theme is 'Opposites' and the key text is 'Jaspers Beanstalk'. The children are growing sunflowers which links to the book. They have been playing with cars driving over cornflakes and hearing them crunch and watching the cars move fast and slow over them. Children have also been looking for items such as shells and pinecones in the sand tray. The key words they have been using are big, little, fast & slow.

The theme in Dragonflies is 'Out Of This World' and they key words they have been using are naming planets, rocket, imaginary & astronaut. They have been role playing inside the space station and recognising numbers. Children have been making space suncatchers and talking about colour and the purpose of the sun.

Ladybirds theme is 'Building & Construction' where they have been learning the following keywords – brick, wall, tower, tall, short and cement mixer. The key text being read is 'Dazzling Diggers'. The children have been using sand and diggers, magnetic construction and foam bricks/dressing up. In Caterpillars the theme is 'Wild Animals' with the key words being parrot, tiger, monkey, elephant & crocodile. The key text is 'Rumble in the Jungle'. The children have been experimenting with animal printing in paint, animal pattern exploration and exploring the small world zoo.

In Butterflies they have been exploring the theme of 'Lifecycles & Growth' by digging and planting in the soil and using trowels. Additionally using lifecycle sorting. Their key text is 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and the key words they have been using are plants, planting, lifecycle & growth.

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.



Recommended Read

Try reading 'Engines, Engines- An Indian Counting Rhyme,' by Lisa Bruce and Stephen Waterhouse. This beautifully illustrated book will support counting and number recognition, whilst also reinforcing rhyme. The book can also be seen by clicking the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePxs9NqPJO8>



Feedback from External Monitoring Visit

On Tuesday 25th April two local authority representatives spent the day at Nursery to monitor the progress we have made since our last inspection. They found:

- happy, confident, independent, and resilient learners
- a caring and supportive learning environment
- school data shows children make really good progress



The feedback from this visit was very positive.

School Day Times Correction

Our apologies, there was an error in the last newsletter. Please note the times for the next academic years are as follows:

15-hour classes (Bumblebees/ Dragonflies/ Ladybirds)

8.45-8.55am (AM drop off 8.45-8.55am & collection 11.35-11.45am/ PM drop off 12.30-12.40pm & collection 3.20-3.30pm)

30-hour classes (Caterpillars/ Butterflies)

8.45am-3.30pm (drop off 8.45-8.55am & collection 3.20-3.30pm)



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 open and enjoy a book?

Children need to have access to books and enjoy listening to stories as soon as they are born! Children who are used to listening to you read to them and enjoy books do better academically, have better language and communication skills, can concentrate better and get the benefit of enjoyment! Books make great Christmas and birthday presents. Different stories can be enjoyed at and borrowed from the library.



Home Learning Reminder

If you have completed the personal, social and emotional activity, please email a picture to your child's class.

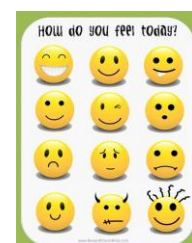
bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org

dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org

caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org

butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org



Health and Safety

Please do not allow your child to play on the equipment in the garden as you collect them. We do not want any accidents, thank you.

Can you please ensure that any buggies left at nursery are placed safely and do not block any entrances/exits – these can cause issues in any emergency evacuation.



Fruit

Thank you for the kind donations of fruit for snack time.



Clothing

PLEASE NAME ALL CLOTHES. If you have any unwanted clothes aged 3-4 or 4-5 we would be grateful to receive them.



Resource Request

To support loose parts play we are also collecting

- Pebbles
- Coconut shells
- Sanded bamboo sections
- Sanded planks of wood
- Rope
- Artificial grass
- Wooden spoons
- Old cutlery or kitchen equipment
- Drain pipes/ guttering
- Pieces of fabric
- Wool



Loose parts play

- supports intellectual development
- promotes safe risk taking
- encourages collaborative play and problem solving
- supports learning across all areas of the curriculum

To support our outdoor learning we are asking for donations of

- Herb plants or seeds
- Bedding Plants
- Compost

We are also collecting recycable materials such as boxes and tubes. (Please do not send in medicines boxes)

Coronation Street Party

We held Coronation Street Parties with all our children on the 9th May, which the children really enjoyed. Thank you for all the very kind donations of food and drink

Consultations

These will be taking place during the week beginning 22nd May – these are only for children who will still be in nursery in September and are optional.

Class Photographs

These will take place on Monday 5th June

Oral Health Month

Between 15th May and 15th June, the Oral Health Foundation will be raising awareness of important oral health issues with the theme: “**Brush for better health.**”

Visit the National Smile Month website: <https://www.dentalhealth.org/national-smile-month> Click on the ‘Your oral health tab’ to find a variety of information including top tips, how to clean your teeth, diet and oral health as well as oral health and general wellbeing.



Resource

The BBC have a website called Tiny Happy People. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

The website includes activity ideas, tips and advice for parents and carers of young people aged 0-5.



Dunstable Locality Children’s Centre

Please see attached the timetable for the Dunstable Locality Children’s Centre for the term. There is also a copy on the key dates tab of the website. If you are not registered for the children’s centre but would like to and find out more there are QR codes on display in the entrance hall.

Toddler Group Reminder

We hold a community toddler group every Thursday from 1.00-2.30pm term time only in Bumblebees class and garden. Our grateful thanks to Dunstable Locality Children’s Centre as the children’s centre staff will now be hosting our toddler group.



Key Dates

Class Photo’s – Monday 5th June
Ark Farm Visiting nursery – Thursday 15th June
Sponsored Bounce – Wednesday 5th July

Term Dates

29.05.23-02.06.23 Half Term School closed
21.07.23 Last day of Summer Term



