



Westfield Nursery School
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Newsletter No 3 2022-2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

It is lovely to see children leaving with smiling faces and sharing some of their learning- the wands were particularly popular! It was lovely to be able to chat over coffee and cake at our MacMillan coffee morning- it has been so lovely inviting people back on site. Don't forget the next opportunity to join us is at the stay and play day. You can have a longer talk about how your child has settled and about their learning at the consultation.



Our learning

Butterflies Class are now learning about 'Harvest and Autumn'. They have been focussing on Handa's Surprise as their book which introduces different fruits. Children have been drawing different fruits as well as exploring autumn natural objects such as acorns. They have been using conkers in paint and completing Harvest puzzles. The curiosity cube has had conkers in their spiky shells.



In Caterpillars class they have been learning about the 'Weather'- perfect with the gusty winds we have been experiencing. Children have been doing weather puzzles, making kites to fly and practicing cutting skills to cut out clothes to hang on the washing line. The curiosity cube has had a figure flying a kite. One of the children chose 'Going on a Bear Hunt' for the children to read and share together.



Ladybird's children have been learning about 'Harvest and Autumn'. Children have been reading the Little Red Hen and retelling the story using props. They have explored conkers and leaves in a sensory tray, and using apples to print; the curiosity cube is an apple cut in half- children have been watching for any changes. Children have also enjoyed a fruit and vegetable lotto game.



Dragonflies have been learning about the theme- All About Me reading the 'Let's look at Bodies' book. They have been singing movement and action songs to label body parts and making self-portraits. The children loved making healthy people pizzas! The curiosity cube has x-ray pictures of different body parts. Bumblebees class have been working on gross and fine motor skills manipulating playdough with pasta. They also collected leaves and made hedgehogs. They have enjoyed listening to 'That's not my badger'. Outside they have collected leaves, sticks and grass as well as completing obstacle courses.



Don't forget the current theme and vocabulary is shared on the whiteboards at the entrance/ exits.

Consultations

You can come and talk to your child's class leader at Nursery to find out more about how they have settled, what they have been learning and next steps. You can also share any learning or new experiences at home. Please sign up for an appointment.

Monday 10th October- Consultations Bumblebees class

Thursday 13th October- Consultations Butterflies class

Friday 14th October- Consultations Caterpillars class

Monday 17th October- Consultations Dragonflies class

Tuesday 18th October- Consultations Ladybirds class

If you cannot make the dates and times suggested, please talk to a member of staff to arrange an alternative.



Curriculum Developments

On our inset days in September staff worked together on our self-evaluation form and development plan for the year as well as preparing classrooms for the new term.

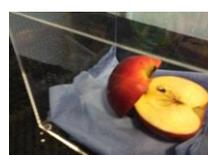
Having used last year to write and implement our Nursery curriculum. This work has continued with highlighting key text within the themes (which can be located in the curriculum document found on the website and emailed at the start of term, these key texts are also displayed in the library area which you can see when you come in and borrow a book. These books are being read and shared in class during large group time.

We have also introduced 'curiosity cubes' (3-4-year-old classes)- these are clear boxes with interesting items inside to look at, to stimulate conversation and reinforce vocabulary.

We have also been working on our outside environment, I'm sure you have spotted changes as you have been collecting your child.

Our guinea pigs have a fabulous new home and have moved into their luxury abode. If you don't see them in their run, they may be at home in the two-year-old garden. Children continue to learn how to care for them.

Monies from last years sponsored bounce has been used to purchase our curiosity cubes, the guinea pig house and a new class mat.



Stay and Play Day Reminder

Do you wonder what your child does at Nursery? Do you wonder how we teach through play? Come to our stay and play day to see what we do in action. To ensure children are not too overwhelmed we have allocated slots- see below.



	Bumblebees Class	Dragonflies Class	Ladybirds Class	Caterpillars Class	Butterflies Class
AM	10.45am-11.45am	10.45am-11.45am	10.45am-11.45am	-	-
PM	-	12.30-1.30pm	12.30-1.30pm	2.15pm-3.15pm	2.15pm-3.15pm

How can you help?

Do you want to support the school as a parent governor? Parent governors are invaluable to help us understand the impact of the actions we take. If you are interested, please talk to Mrs Collins.



If you don't want to commit to becoming a governor but have an interest in well-being, please talk to Mrs Collins. We are also reviewing our work to support well-being and would again value a parent/ carer perspective.

Wacky Wednesday

On a Wednesday the 3–4-year-old children have the opportunity to play outside together and inside across all classes. We trialled this last week and the children gave a very positive response. We also do whole school singing together on a Wednesday- the children are currently learning Autumn and Harvest songs ready for our Harvest celebration. These can be found on the website on the parents/ carers information tab- then resources for parents/ carers.



Early Reading

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
5. 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 'The Little Red Hen,' a traditional tale about harvesting wheat, which also includes a message about helping others.



Resource Donations

Thank you for the kind donations of boxes, pots, socks and other curriculum resources. These have all been gratefully received!

Miss Palmer is having a short break from Nursery in November to visit Kenya, volunteering for a charity. She will be staying at Utange hostel where she will be helping with a feeding programme and doing community outreach work. Governors have supported this as on her return, she will be able to share her experiences with the children so they can learn about another country and culture. The charity website is www.utangeorphans.org

She is collecting donations to take with her including

- blue/ black biro pens
- girls long white socks (5-7 years)
- boys short black socks (7-10 years)
- geometry sets
- blue/ black whiteboard markers
- 12 inch rulers
- sanitary pads
- reams of A4 white paper



If you would like to offer something please bring it to the office before half term. Thank you in advance.

MacMillan Coffee Morning/ Afternoon

Thank you for your amazing generosity in making and buying cakes. A special thanks to those parents/ carers who joined us on the day. We collected a wonderful £128.40 for this wonderful charity which provides specialist health care, information and financial support to people affected by cancer.



Harvest Reminder

Thank you for the Harvest donations for the Salvation Army. If you haven't yet sent in a donation there is still time to do so. Please bring a tin/ packet and add it to the display in the entrance hall. The Salvation Army use this food to help those most in need, especially families with children in the local area. The children will be celebrating Harvest on Wednesday 19th October.



Photographs

On Thursday 20th October we have a photographer coming to take individual photographs. The proof will be sent home and you are able to decide if you would like to purchase them or not. They do make great Christmas presents!



Oral Health

As part of our work, we share oral health information. We share a lot of information on the website. (Click on Awards, then My smile) as well as a display in the library area which you can look at when you come and borrow a book.

It is recommended that children

- brush twice daily (morning and bedtime) with a fluoride toothpaste (1000ppm of fluoride).
- shouldn't be rinsing as this washes away the fluoride.
- under three should be using a smear of toothpaste.
- over three should be using a pea sized amount of toothpaste.
- over 6 months can be drinking from an open top cup and over 18 months should *not* be drinking from a baby bottle due to the damage caused to teeth.
- should be visiting a dentist by the age of one.



You can use the NHS finding a dentist service finder <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist>
We also have a list of all local dentists on the display/ website for you to access.

At Nursery we offer tooth friendly snacks including either milk or water to drink and a selection of fruit or other tooth friendly snacks.

Children take part in a healthy food activity each term such as making pizzas or sandwiches.

We encourage tooth friendly celebrations. If you want to celebrate your child's birthday with the class, we suggest you do this with

- snap bands
- stickers
- party blowers
- masks
- baby slinkies etc

These are very popular, last longer than sweets and save little teeth from a sugar spike. It also helps where children may have different allergies or dietary requirements.



Home Learning Reminder

If you haven't shared a photograph yet, please either give a photo to a class teacher or email it to the class, thank you.



Agnes and Stages of Development

Did you know...

By the age of two children should be using up to **50** or more single words e.g. 'no', 'book', 'biscuit'



By age three children should be using up to **300** words (Taken from 'Universally Speaking- the ages and stages of children's communication development from birth to 5')



If you are worried about your child visit <https://childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk/how-to-refer/>

Children should stop using a dummy during the daytime between **3-4 months old** and at night time around 12 months of age. Problems of prolonged use of a dummy include being less able to communicate, speech may become unclear, tooth growth may be affected. (www.goodtoknow.co.uk/ www.supernanny.co.uk)



Children should not be using a bottle **after 18 months of age**. Problems of prolonged bottle use include weight gain and tooth decay. (American Academy of Paediatrics)



Most children will be ready to toilet train between **18 months and 3 years of age**. Use our potty training guide on the website to support potty training.



Usually children will want to bin the buggy between **2 and 3 years of age**. Prolonged use of the buggy can lead to problems of obesity and lack of exercise. There is an important lesson in young children learning to hold hands and cross roads safely. (www.theworkingparent.com) (We do know some of our families walk a very long way to get to Nursery and in this case a buggy may be necessary!)



Children aged **2 to 5 years of age** should be having no more than 1 hour of screen time in 24 hours. (www.nhs.uk)



Children **3-4 years** of age should be physically active for at least 180 minutes a day with at least 60 minutes moderate to vigorous activity. (www.nhs.uk)



Children **3-4 years of age** should be getting 10-13 hours of good quality sleep. (www.nhs.uk)



Community Health Hub

If you are worried about any aspects of your child's development contact your health visitor. The Health SPA 0-19 Single point of access telephone number is 0300 555 0606 and the email is ccs.bedsandlutonchildrenshealthhub@nhs.net



School Larder Reminder

Thanks to a kind donation to Nursery, we have been able to set up a food larder. The larder includes staples such as cereal, rice, pasta, biscuits, beans, toothpaste and soap. The larder is situated in the library area. If you need anything please come and take what you need whilst you are borrowing a book.



Toddler Group Reminder

Our toddler group is open to all families with under-fives and is held on Thursday afternoons from 1.00-2.30pm term time only.



Key Dates this Term

Monday 10th October- Consultations Bumblebees class
Wednesday 12th October- Stay and Play Day (Parents/ Carers welcome)
Thursday 13th October- Consultations Butterflies class
Friday 14th October- Consultations Caterpillars class
Monday 17th October- Consultations Dragonflies class
Tuesday 18th October- Consultations Ladybirds class
Wednesday 19th October- Harvest celebration (children only)
Thursday 20th October- Individual Photos- details to follow
Thursday 3rd November- Pantomime (children only)
Monday 14th November- Friendship Day (to mark anti-bullying week) (children only)- details to follow
Tuesday 15th November- Nursery Rhyme Day (to mark Nursery rhyme week) (children only) - details to follow
Wednesday 16th November- Beep Beep Day (to mark Road safety week) (children only) - details to follow
Friday 18th November- Children in Need (children only) - details to follow
Week beginning 5th December Christmas Stall/ Raffle- details to follow
Thursday 8th December Christmas Carol Singing Event for 3-4-year-olds 11.00am & 2.30pm- details to follow
Friday 9th December- Christmas jumper/ outfit day- details to follow
Friday 9th December- Singing event for 2-year-olds- 11.30am- details to follow
Friday 9th December Library Prize draw
Wednesday 14th December Christmas Party Day (children only) - details to follow
Friday 16th December- Last Day of Term