



Westfield Nursery School
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October No 2 2022

Newsletter No 4 2022-2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Head teacher

It feels this half term has gone very quickly but it has been very busy with lots of learning taking place. We have particularly enjoyed special events such as MacMillan and stay and play day! Later on in the newsletter we have given you some ideas of things to do this half term. Please check hair for headlice as we have had a reported case.



Please remember school is closed on Friday 21st October for an INSET day and then for the following week as it is half term. School opens again on Monday 31st October.

Our learning

Bumblebees class have been exploring pumpkins scooping out the seeds with spoons. They have also been looking for spiders outside and enjoyed making webs- skills to develop their motor control. They have been reading the text 'The Very Busy Spider.' This led to the children exploring the farm animals who feature in the story on a tuff spot tray. They have been learning to name and describe. Outside the children have also been showing care and concern for the guinea pigs. 

In Ladybirds the children have been reading the key text 'The Little Red Hen,' and using puppets and props to retell the story. The children have made toast from the bread the little red hen made! Learning to make the toast safely and spread the butter themselves to develop their motor skills. The children have been investigating pumpkins by using all their senses to explore and describe the differences between the outside and the inside of the pumpkin. The harvested foods the class have discussed led to a farm shop role play where children have enjoyed working with their friends to roleplay the shop keeper or customer. 

Caterpillars class have also been reading and retelling the key text 'The Little Red Hen.' They have been mark making on the pumpkins to explore the different marks they can make on this unusual surface; they will then move on to exploring the inside of the pumpkins. The children have been learning about Harvest and have made a farm in the tuff spot tray so they can harvest the crops. The children have been developing their fine motor skills by completing some harvest threading. 

Butterflies children have been learning all about Diwali and fireworks. Part of the classroom has been made into a dark den which the children have explored with a variety of torches and light up toys. They have been developing motor control by making firework patterns in a variety of ways such as with shaving foam and glitter as well as with fingerpaint. They have used the story 'My Diwali' to share a child's experience of this festival. 

In Dragonflies the children have been thinking about Harvest too. They have created a farm shop using the harvested goods. The children have used the Duplo to make farms. They have enjoyed the text 'Handa's Surprise' which introduces the children to a range of fruits. 
The children have been using the conkers found in the Autumn to support counting.

Consultations

If you missed your appointment or couldn't make the day, please ask your child's class leader for an another time.

School Places

It is time to apply for your child's school place for next September. Children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 are due to start school in September 2023. You need to apply before 15 January 2023. Most schools have open day events- contact the school/s you are interested to find out more.

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/5/school_admissions

Harvest

Thank you for the Harvest donations for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army use this food to help those most in need, especially families with children in the local area. We collected 4 bags of food. The children enjoyed singing Harvest songs, listening to the story of the Little Red Hen and hearing about how the food helps other children like them. Come and see the display in the library.



The children were asked about Harvest and they made these comments...

'The men pick up the apples from the farm.'

'When you give all the fruit to everyone.'

'Pick some sunflowers and oranges when I plant them.'

'Seeds...grow plants.'

'Picking up conkers.'

'Sing Harvest songs, say thank you to God.'

'The wheat makes the bread.'

'They bake...the mummies.'

Dunstable in Bloom

I would like to thank Miss Shaw who attended the Dunstable in Bloom awards on Monday and collected our certificate of participation. She led our wonderful entry in the summer term celebrating the platinum jubilee.



Stay and Play Day

A huge thank you to those parents/ carers who attended the stay and play day. Children were so happy to have you at Nursery. Thanks to those of you who left comments too.

'Really lovely to be able to come and visit today. Lovely to see him getting on well and enjoying showing us around. Thank you, son.'

'Very good Nursery, very good staff. My son is very happy here.'

'It was so nice to come to stay and play with my daughter today. Environment and staff are amazing! Lovely to see what she gets up to on a day-to-day basis. She loves coming to Nursery each day to spend time with her friends.'

'It was a great experience to see how my child settled. This was my first time, and I will definitely come next time to catch up and find out how my child is developing.'

'Lovely time watching how little ones enjoy their time at Nursery. Pleased with everything I saw here, and my daughter was so excited to show me around and love she's playing.'

'Thank you so much for letting me share a lovely, fun afternoon with my son. I now want to come to Nursery every day! Everyone is so lovely and friendly!'

'Thank you for a lovely afternoon! It's lovely to see what our son gets up to each day. Please do this again soon.'

'It was so lovely to come and see what my daughter does at Nursery every day. She enjoyed showing me what she plays with and pointed out her pictures on the wall. All staff are lovely and friendly. Keep up the good work.'

Recommended Read

Try reading 'Spot's Harvest' by Eric Hill. Spot and his friends visit an orchard and to collect apples and pick a pumpkin.



Library Prize

Don't forget- to be in with a chance of winning the library prize at the end of term in December, you need to have borrowed a book from the library. Why not come in and borrow a book (or two) for the half term holiday.



Resource Donations

We are still seeking donations if you have any of the following you do not need...

-Saucepans & frying pans

-Wooden spoons/ Kitchen utensils

-Cutlery

-Squares of fabric

-Wool/ String/ Rope



Nursery Clothes

We do change children after they have have got wet or dirty. If you have any Nursery clothes at home, please return them- our stocks of trousers are very low.



Individual Photographs Reminder

We have a photographer coming into school on Thursday 20th October to take individual photographs of the children. They work very hard to ensure you get a smiling photograph. The proof is sent home with instructions if you would like to purchase them. These make great gifts.



Last day of half term

We have an INSET day on Friday 21st October so Nursery is closed.

Ideas for Half Term

You could do one of the activities on your passport such as fly a kite!

Season/ Weather Walk

1. Go for a season's learning walk around the environment.
2. Talk about what you find, e.g. puddles, leaves etc. (What can you see? What can you hear? What can you safely touch?)

Communicates with Adults and Children (Communication and Language)

Asks simple questions (24-36 months)

Holds a simple conversation (24-36 months)

Questions why things happen and gives explanations. Asks e.g., who, what, when, how (36- 48 months)

Builds up vocabulary that reflects the breadth of their experiences (36- 48 months)

Conker Maths

1. Collect conkers with your child when out and about.
2. Use these in various way- Which are bigger/ smaller/ heavier/ lighter?
3. Count out 3. How many ways can you make 3? (0+3, 1+2, 2+1, 3+0)
4. Count them (What happens when you add one more or take one away?)
5. Put them in small sets (Which has more/ less?)



Understands and Uses Numbers (Maths Development)

Begins to compare and recognise changes in numbers of things, using words like more, lots or same (24-36 months)

Begins to say numbers in order, some of which are in the right order (24-36 months)

Takes or gives one, two or three objects from a group (24-36 months)

Compares two small groups of up to 5 objects, saying when there are the same number of objects in each group (36-48 months)

Points or touches (tags) each item, saying one number for each item, using the stable order of 1,2,3,4,5 (36-48 months)

Counts up to 5 items, recognising that the last number said represents the total counted so far (36-48 months)

Conker Rolling

1. Collect conkers with your child when out and about.
2. Put the conker in some paint
3. Add a piece of paper to a tray/ box. Put the conker in & move the box around to make marks



Creates a Piece of Art/Model (Expressive Arts and Design)

Responds to playing with colour in a variety of ways (24-36 months)

Recognises, names and makes secondary colours, purple (red mixed with blue), orange (red mixed with yellow), and green (yellow mixed with blue) (36-48 months)

Autumn Bracelets

1. Go on a leaf hunt. What different types of leaves you can see? What different colours/ shapes/ textures can you see?
2. Collect some leaves.
3. Collect what you need: -
 - Card
 - A collection of autumnal items such as leaves, flowers, sticks
 - Glue
 - Sellotape
 - Scissors
4. Stick the autumn items.
5. Wrap the card around and secure to make the bracelet.



Creates a Piece of Art/Model (Expressive Arts and Design)

Turn up wind up glue to the appropriate height; Applies correct amount of PVA glue using a glue spreader (24-36 months)

Explores using Sellotape/masking tape to join paper or card (24-36 months)

Leaf mobile

1. Go on a leaf hunt. What different types of leaves you can see? What different colours/ shapes/ textures can you see?
2. Collect some leaves.
3. Collect what you need: -
 - Different size, colour, shape leaves
 - Lots of sticks
 - A needle (may need adult supervision)/ glue/ sellotape
 - String/ wool



4. Attach the leaves on to the stick. Which method works best?

Creates a Piece of Art/Model (Expressive Arts and Design)

Turn up wind up glue to the appropriate height; Applies correct amount of PVA glue using a glue spreader (24-36 months)

Explores using Sellotape/masking tape to join paper, card and reclaimed materials (24-36 months)

Uses tools for a purpose (36-48 months)

Experiments with a range of joining equipment e.g., split pins/treasure tags/elastic bands/ string/ thread/ wool/ paperclips/ blue tack (36-48 months)

Leaf Puppets

1. Go on a leaf hunt. What different types of leaves you can see? What different colours/ shapes/ textures can you see?
2. Collect some leaves.
3. Collect what you need
 - chalk pens
 - lolly sticks
 - paint
 - googly eyes
 - glue
 - Anything else you can think off.



4. Glue the leaves onto the lolly sticks.

5. Decorate the leaf, give them eyes and a mouth if they wish to do so.

When dry, play with your puppet. Can you tell a story?

Creates a Piece of Art/Model (Expressive Arts and Design)

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Uses tools for a purpose (36-48 months)

Experiments with a range of joining equipment e.g., split pins/treasure tags/elastic bands/ string/ thread/ wool/ paperclips/ blue tack (36-48 months)

The Duplication Game

1. Go out and gather a small collection of items from the local environment, like feathers, pinecones, pebbles and leaves.
2. Your child's challenge is to search the area for the same objects, and then come back to see how many they've managed to collect.
3. Now put the items on a tray and cover them with a cloth.
4. Take one away- can your child work out which item you have removed.
(Start with a small number of items and build up)

Communicates with Adults and Children (Communication and Language)

Beginning to listen to others (24-36 months)

Understands and follows simple instructions (24-36 months)

Responds to instructions with two or more parts (36-48 months)

Understands prepositions (36-48 months)

Hot Chocolate Cloud Dough

1. Collect the items you will need:
 - 8 cups of flour
 - 2-4 cups of hot chocolate powder
 - A bowl
 - 2 cups of vegetable oil
2. Measure out the flour and hot chocolate mix into a large container. Add enough hot chocolate mix to get the colour and scent that you'd like.
3. Start with adding just 1 1/2 cup of oil to the dry mixture, fully incorporate it using your hands or a wooden spoon. You want the dough to seem dry to the touch, but also stick together if you grab a handful.
4. Add extra in 1/2 cup increments until you reach the desired texture.
5. Have fun playing with your hot chocolate cloud. What can you make?



Communicates with Adults and Children (Communication and Language)

Beginning to listen to others (24-36 months)

Understands and follows simple instructions (24-36 months)

Responds to instructions with two or more parts (36-48 months)

Retells a simple past event in correct order (36-48 months)

Remember we always like to hear about learning at home or special events. Write on the home learning sheet attached and return it to school. Alternatively share a photo by emailing it to your child's class.

bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org

butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

Term Dates 2023-2024

Please note the term dates for 2023-2024 have now been added to the website.