

Martenscroft Nursery School & Children's Centre



NEWSLETTER

February 2015

Dates for the diary 2015

World Book Day
Thursday 5th March

Parent's evening
Thursday 19th March 2015
Appointment information to follow

Phonic Workshop for parents/carers
Tuesday 24th March

Parent & Community Group
Wednesday 25th March
At Martenscroft
9.30am

Special Event Day for Families
Wednesday 1st April

Easter Break
(Nursery Class & Term-Time only children)
Close at the end of the day on
Thursday 2nd April 2015
Return on **Monday 20th April 2015**

Bank Holidays (ALL CHILDREN) Centre Closed
Friday 3rd April 2015 &
Monday 6th April 2015



Phonic workshop for parents/carers



Tuesday 24th March
2.30pm-3.15pm

We would like to invite you to come along to our phonic workshop to find out more about how we teach children skills to read and how you can help at home.



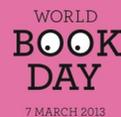
Small reminder to all parents from Childcare

Please can all parents/carers ensure that your child is collected on time. If you are unsure of your agreed time please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Childcare Team.



Thank you

World Book Day



Thursday 5th March

To celebrate World Book Day we will be having a themed dress-up day. Our theme this year will be story characters, so anything from the Gruffalo to Cinderella! Every child will also receive a £1 book token to be redeemable at various shops.

Understanding Children's Behaviour

Starting 28th April 2014

Join up to **8-10 week course here at Martenscroft .**
1pm-3pm.
Please speak to **Kim from the Children Centre Team** for more information.



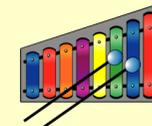
Special Event Day for Families

Wednesday 1st April 2015

'Music at the Museum'

3.30-5pm

Please come along to a fun music experience at Manchester museum. Everyone is welcome to walk with us from Martenscroft at 3.15pm for this extra special event or please join us there.



Parent's Evening

Thursday 19th March

Our parent's evening will be held on Thursday 19th March. Appointments can be booked with your child's key worker from Monday 9th March. If you have any questions or concerns before the evening, please do not hesitate to speak with any member of staff in your child's room or with a member of the senior management team.



Story Star Sessions Every Monday

We would like to invite you to come along to our new story star sessions.

Enjoy stories and loan books from our library with Kim, Becky, Michelle and Debbie.

3.30-4pm & 4.30-5.00pm



Talk money, stress less

Friday 13th March 2015

10am-12pm

Crèche will be provided
Please contact **Ruth Patten from the Children Centre Team** for more information.



Flyers are available from reception

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted with how your children are progressing in Nursery this year and would like to thank you for your involvement and support both in Nursery and with your child's learning and development. Working together has such positive benefits for your child and their outcomes. Please see in this newsletter all the dates of future opportunities for you to be involved this half term and we look forward to seeing you at these events.

I am really pleased to let you know that we have been designated by the National College for Teaching and Leadership as a National Teaching School and National Support School. This is wonderful news and recognition for the Martenscroft community. In practice this means that we will be able to continue to support our early years settings and offer training to early years practitioners across Manchester and beyond. Our designation is in partnership with Loreto College, Piper Hill Specialist Support School and St Mary's CE Primary School.

Following consultation across Manchester we are now able to confirm that Martenscroft has agreed to lead and deliver the revised group of Children's Centres which includes Martenscroft, Moss Side, Claremont and the City Centre. This change will start from April 1st 2015 and we are currently in the process of making the necessary staffing arrangements. We will be welcoming new staff to our team who currently work in those centres as well as advertising for new admin positions. More detailed information will follow soon once we are able to confirm the appointments.

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to speak to me or a member of the leadership team.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Hardy
Headteacher



Willow Room

This half term the theme in Willow room is Rhythm and Rhyme. Music and movement lessons are a highlight of the children's week and through this theme we are going to build on this interest and enthusiasm. As a school we have embarked on a collaborative programme with Z-arts and the children will be exploring different ways to move using their imagination and own creativity. Katie will also be continuing to lead weekly music times. Outdoors in rainbow room there will be a stage area set up where the children can perform their own songs and music. The sensory area will also have musical instruments to use and explore. Each week there will be a focus on a particular rhyme which the children will learn and use to explore rhyming pairs, for example 'fall' and 'wall', 'spout' and 'out'. We are starting with Humpty Dumpty and Incy Wincy spider.

In mathematics the children are exploring shapes continuing to talk about their properties and unique features. We are encouraging the children to use mathematical language such as edge, corner, side and point. They will also be talking about numbers, learning to recognise them and match them correctly. You can help your child by talking about the different numbers you see when you are out and about. For example, what is the number of your house, what numbers can you see on the car number plate and what numbers are on the birthday card.

Thank you for your continuing support for your children with their reading books. This half term the staff team have started a weekly story star session in the hall on Mondays after school. Come and join in the fun and borrow some books to take home from our school library.



Blossom Room

This term we are going to be looking at growing and new life. As it is spring, we feel there will be lots of opportunities for the children to experience growth and new life in a variety of ways. Firstly we will be looking at ourselves and focusing on how we look, how we look after ourselves and how we grow. Through a range of activities such as washing babies and creating self-portraits we hope the children gain a real sense of themselves and themselves growing as an individual. Next we will be looking at a range of different animals and learning about how spring is a time for new life to be born. Through a range of books and



props we will be looking at the life cycles of animals, such as frogs and chicks and recognising the steps these animals take from birth onwards.



For the last two weeks of term we will look at seeds and plants, and hopefully, weather permitting we will be able to plant some different types of seeds and be able to watch them grow throughout the term as well as learning how to care for the plants, how to nourish them and what happens if we don't look after the growing bulbs properly.



Palm Room

Our theme for this term will be growing and new life, we will be looking at people, animals and plants.



We will be visiting our local garden centre to buy seeds to plant and watch grow throughout the term. We will be making a sequence book, this will show the different stages from buying the seeds, to planting them, watering them and watching them grow. The babies will be cutting fruit to see what seeds we can find, planting them and seeing how they grow.

The children will be looking at and naming farm animals and their babies and imitating the different sounds that they make. We will also be visiting the museum to look at the different animals.



In the home area the children will be bathing, feeding and dressing the dolls. We are also going to encourage the babies to help with putting on and taking off their own coats and also to become independent in following the bathroom routine.

We have asked the parents to provide a family photo to display on our gallery wall, this will be used to promote discussions while playing in the home area.

The babies will also be participating in weekly sticky kids sessions and music sessions with Katie. We will be using various sign language signs with the babies and these will be displayed for parents to see each week on our parents' information board.