



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back to Nursery! I hope you all had a good break!

Thank you to all of you who supported our Christmas Fayre, thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity we managed to raise an amazing £855

We had many of our parents, families and local businesses donate items for our raffle, tombola and cake stalls - it is all very much appreciated.

Thank you all for continuing to comment and add to your child's tapestry account. It so lovely to see what the children get up to when they are out of school.

If any of you have you have, or know of families with, younger children we will soon be looking at admissions for the next academic year, please register children through reception

Debbie

Diary Dates

Spring Term - 2020

Classes start; Friday 3rd January
Classes close;
Half term; 17th - 21st February
Classes close; Thursday 2nd April

Summer Term - 2020

Nursery closed - staff training; Monday 20th April
Classes start; Tuesday 21st April
May Day; Friday 8th May
Half term; 25th - 29th May
Classes close; Tuesday 21st July

World Book Day - 5th March 2020. Visit <https://www.worldbookday.com/> for information and lots of activities and ideas.

Safer Internet Day - 11th February 2020

Child Protection and Safeguarding for Schools

We take child protection issues extremely seriously; at all times we consider the protection and safety of the child in our care. Child protection issues are always dealt with in the appropriate ways. All staff have attended child protection training and are familiar with the correct procedures.

At Caverstede Nursery School we follow the Child Protection procedures for the Peterborough Safeguarding Board.

"It may be helpful for you to know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from non-accidental injury, neglect, emotional or sexual abuse. Schools are encouraged to take the attitude that where there are grounds for concern they should be over-cautious, and seek advice, rather than to risk a child's safety. Occasionally, this duty on staff means that a concern is passed on which is later shown to be unfounded. It is hoped that parents/carers will appreciate how difficult it is for schools to carry out this delicate responsibility, and accept that the staff member was acting in good faith and in the best interests of all children."

We have named people for child protection they are Debbie Hayes, Katy Coles and Emily Wiseman.

If you have concerns regarding children's safety and protection, it is essential that you contact your child's key person, class teacher or the Headteacher.



Butterflies

This term our core story is the Three Billy Goats Gruff, we have a variety of different adaptations of the tale that offer a selection of details and endings, which we use to build on our role play like building a bridge in our reading area to see how the troll lives and small world play where we retell the struggles of the characters. Using inspiration from the story we have begun to learn about goats, places we call home and share what we think about trolls. We continue to explore outside during our woodland days that take place on a Friday now and recently we found a friendly troll who has moved into the classroom! We plan to investigate further for any more and plan to plant some cress that we could also use at snack time.

We have made some changes to our role play and have a Chinese theme present as we explore Chinese culture and look forward to celebrating Chinese New Year, this includes making a large dragon to use in our dragon dance performance. We will also be sampling some different foods from China and some of the traditional music as we dive into the culture.

We continue to build our number sense, storytelling and creative sides using paints, pens and pencils and will be looking at the art style of Georges Seurat who creates amazing pieces using dots in his Pointillism art work of the world around him

Ladybirds

This half term in Ladybird class we are looking and reading the story 'Walking Through the Jungle' by Julie Lacome. The children are beginning to recognise the animals we find in the story and they are joining in with making the animal noises. We have started learning the song 'Walking Through the Jungle' and the children are starting to sing this independently. We will make a jungle in the classroom with different coloured leaves and flowers. We regularly use the story sack that goes with the story to talk about the animals. We have been singing lots of number songs and rhymes as well as looking at different patterns and shapes. We have done some printing and made some tiger stripes.

Our Woodland Day this term is Tuesday and we are exploring the area. The children are learning about how to put on a wet suit and wellies as it can get very muddy and wet. The children will be playing in the mud kitchen, in the digging pod, looking for jungle animals from our story, playing with water, using the wheel barrows and playing on the tyre swing and much more!

Buzzy Bees

This half term our core story is 'The Tiger who came to Tea', by Judith Kerr. We will be exploring this story through a range of activities. We have already enjoyed a range of activities, including a turning out home corner into Sophie's house, making stripy weaving patterns, creating tiger food, and making clay tiger faces in the Woodland. We have been looking closely at where tigers live, using our books all about tigers. We plan to have a tea party with the children before the end of half term, where the children will make their own food for it! We are also starting to explore further into other animals and will make links with other subjects we are covering such as Chinese New Year. For Chinese New Year we will look at the story of the 12 different animals, taste foods influenced by China, look at and have a chance to dress up in traditional clothing, and creating our own Dragon ready for the Dragon Dance on the 29th January!

In the classrooms, **each child has their own pigeonhole for information**, letters etc. so please remember to check these every day that your child attends nursery as there may be something important in there for you.

Library Explorer



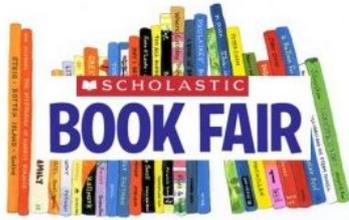
Library Explorers will be starting again after the February Half Term. You will be able to pick up your collecting card from reception and get it stamped each time you borrow a book. If you've not yet borrowed any books from the library, why not start after half term and become a Library Explorer.

Please remember to send your child with warm clothes, hat, gloves and scarves so that they can enjoy playing outside during the winter months. If possible please try to name all clothing as it makes it so much easier to return items of clothing to the correct child!



Scholastic Book Fair

We will be holding a book fair from Wednesday 18th March and it will run for a week. There will be lots of books available to buy and all sales help towards us getting new books for our school library. More details nearer the time!



ParentMail

We currently use ParentMail as a way of sending out information and quickly letting you know what is happening in the school. Thank you to everyone who has signed in to the system and accessed their account - this does help us to save money as we can reduce the amount of paper used!

The quickest way to use this is through the ParentMail App on your smartphone. Please download the app from your App Store and install this to ensure you get immediate notifications when we do send something to you.

Simply search 'ParentMail' and it's easily found!

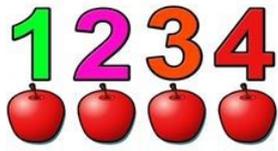
Also, when you update any of your details - mobile phone number or e-mail address, you will need to amend this on your account. We can make the amendments but you will need to approve these yourself before they are saved, otherwise they will revert back to old contact details and you could miss receiving some information. If you have any queries on ParentMail, please do not hesitate to ask.

Security & Safeguarding; Mobile phones and personal cameras are only permitted to be used at in the school reception and parent café. It is important that you do not use your phone whilst settling your child into nursery or when dropping off and collecting your child. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



We have a Facebook page - Official Caverstede Early Years Centre. Please request to be added.





A parent's guide to.....

Mathematics - Part 1



Counting is a key skill for young children to learn, and there is much that you can do at home to help your child grasp some of the mathematical ideas that they will use for the rest of their lives. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014, states :

'Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.'

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, Mathematics is sub divided into the following specific areas of learning and development:

- Numbers
- Shape, space and measures

Supporting maths at home

Here are some suggestions of activities that you can do with your child at home to develop their early mathematical skills.

Routines:

Use routine times such as bedtime and bath time to develop mathematical ideas. For example,

- Count the buttons on shirts or blouses as you fasten or unfasten them on your child's clothes.
- Count the number of Velcro straps on your child's shoes as they put them on and take them off.
- Compare the size and shape of different containers in the bath and the heaviness of containers when filled with water.
- Use tidy up time to sort items e.g. 'put the trains in the green tub, put the cars in the red box.'

Mealtimes:

Encourage your child to help prepare meals. For example, let them:

- Help you weigh ingredients.
- Find the best size of pot for cooking potatoes.
- Ensure that everyone has a knife, fork and spoon or cup and plate.



Outdoors:

Look out for ways to talk about mathematics when you are outdoors, such as going to the park or to the supermarket. For example,

- Draw their attention to numbers and shapes in shops, on packaging, on houses, or on road signs and buses.
- Count trees, cars or recycling bins.

Other activities:

- Play board games with your child .
- If your child goes upstairs count the steps together.

