

A Learning Letter from Nursery

Welcome to the Nursery

The Summer Term is always tinged with excitement and anticipation for the changes ahead. Our Nursery 1 children are continuing to explore the environment and develop their friendships. Meanwhile our older Nursery 2 children begin to look more outwardly and start to think and talk about when they go to school. It is always a pleasure to spend these last few months with the children and to see them use the environment so independently and creatively and to observe as they negotiate and compromise to find solutions that keep everybody happy. They have come so far in such a relatively short space of time and we are immensely proud of them all. As the children make their transition visits to their next school it is important that everybody around them focuses on how positive a step this is, even if you are feeling a bit wobbly about it yourself. Each and every one of our children has the skills and attitudes to shine in the next stage of their journey...

Learning in the Nursery

The Studio has morphed once again and is now full of exciting images and resources to encourage and facilitate the creation of sculptures. Through their exploration the children will have opportunities to respond to a wide range of media and materials understanding that they can manipulate and create effects with these. Alongside this we will be using the theme of dragons to develop our descriptive language and to engage the children in storytelling. As the term progresses we hope that these two threads will merge and plan on an ambitious project to produce a huge 3-D dragon.

Number and counting...

Developing mathematical thinking and reasoning is part of everything we do in the Nursery, from counting the children in the hello circle to discovering which log is so heavy it needs a friend to help to carry it. The children are encouraged to describe their thinking and to record their ideas. This term we are using our shared snack as a vehicle to develop mathematical concepts. Last week the children had to carefully halve the sandwiches and had to share a packet of gingerbread men between two. There are so many rich opportunities through cooking and baking including, counting, measuring, weighing, sharing, doubling and many more. This is certainly a tasty way to learn!

How you can help

At home: Try baking or cooking together.

Look out for: Signs of summer. I am sure it will be here to stay soon!

Listen to: The amazing bird song.

Visit: The University Campus and follow the sculpture trail.

As always we would ask you to encourage your child to be as independent as possible. Here in the Nursery we always ask them to try first before they ask an adult for help. It is surprising how often they manage to get their foot in the shoe or open their snack pot by themselves after all.

Important date: You are invited to join your child to share some activities on Wednesday 23rd May between 1:00-2:00 for our Nursery Activity Afternoon.



'Every child is an artist'.

Picasso

Dancing with Lizzie

Every Thursday morning for the next six weeks, Lizzie Swinford, a dance practitioner, will be coming to the Nursery to lead a dance and movement workshop as part of her Masters Degree research with the University of Exeter. Lizzie has been a welcome and frequent visitor to the Nursery over the past few years, so we are thrilled that she will be joining us to inspire the children and adults. Each week the children will explore a different theme or story through music and movement, and this term the focus will be 'dragons'. If your child is in the Nursery on a Thursday morning, ask them to share their dance experience with you.

On your way to Nursery

Look for opportunities to practise counting.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

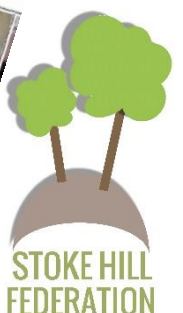
- Count footsteps between lamp posts
- Count how many cars you can spot in different colours

Try the alphabet challenge.

See how long it takes you to find something beginning with each letter sound.

See if you can spot any garden birds. Visit the website Wildlife Watch and download a spotter sheet for yourself

<http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets>



The children having fun exploring inside and out!