



Little Woodlands Pre-school Spring Term Newsletter 12.01.2021

Welcome Back!

Our topic this half term is "Superheroes". During the first couple of weeks we will be learning about 'superpowers'. Who is our favourite superhero? What is special about them? What clothes do they wear? We will be making our own superhero masks, cuffs and capes. We will then move on to think about who are the heroes in our own local community? Who are the emergency services and how do they help us? Superheroes come in many shapes and guises, our parents and other members of our families are superheroes to us. What do they do to make us happy and healthy?

This week the children have been settling back in after the Christmas break and are really enjoying playing with their friends.

Letters and Sounds

Our Letters and Sounds focus for Squirrels is 'Alliteration' this term. We are using the Jolly Phonic action songs to learn the initial letter sounds. Over the coming weeks your little ones will be getting to know the sounds of individual letters and recognising what the sound looks like (the grapheme). Eventually this will enable them to blend the sounds together to form words, the foundation for early reading.

If you would like to hear the full range of sounds to support your child, please type in Jolly Phonics Action Songs on You Tube. Enjoy!!!!

For Hedgehogs we will be concentrating on listening to instrumental sounds and making music.

Warm Welcome

This half-term we welcome William and Esmail to Pre-school. We are sure your little ones will settle in quickly and soon become a huge part of our setting.

Covering the Curriculum

Under the Early Years Foundation Stage, the seven areas of learning and development will be covered as follows:

Personal Social and Emotional Development - Taking turns/building confidence when talking in a group.

Communication and Language - Time to Talk Circle time activities, role play and performance, developing speaking and listening skills, learning new words.

Physical Development

Gross Motor- Write Dance -Super heroes, team games.

Fine Motor - Finger gym activities, play dough/dough disco, cutting skills, developing pencil grip

Expressive Art and Design

Materials -Colour mixing, describing and recognising colours e.g. hot colours/cold colours.

Drama - Listening, sequencing and acting out stories.

Music - Using music to enhance stories and drama.

Understanding the world - Science focus - freezing and melting, experiments that pop, floating and sinking.

People who help us.

Maths

Number - Counting items with one to one correspondence, counting irregular arrangements.

Shape and space - recognising and naming shapes, identifying properties of shapes.

Literacy

Reading - Superhero stories

Writing - Assessment writing (Christmas), recognising and copying own name.

Letters & Sounds Squirrels (alliteration), Hedgehogs (instrumental sounds)

Helpful little reminders

Clothes

We do recommend that children don't wear their best outfits to pre-school as we encourage them to spend time outside playing with water, sand, mud and general messy stuff. We would hate for them to ruin their best outfits! Under Covid 19 guidance we need to keep classrooms as ventilated as possible, therefore the door to the pre-school garden is open most of the time. This means it can get quite chilly. Please ensure your child has an extra sweatshirt/jumper and coat. Also, under the same guidance, could you please bring spare clothes into pre-school in a plastic bag. We can leave them on the children's pegs and send them home when they have been used.

Snack

We have been providing a fruit snack every day for the children, however in this current lockdown we are unsure as to whether the school will be taking delivery of fruit. Could you therefore provide a fruit/healthy snack for your child when they are in session?

Please provide a water bottle for use throughout the day with your child's name on it. This will be accessible to them throughout the day.

Nappies/Wipes

If your child is in nappies/pull ups, please bring enough nappies and wipes to ensure they can be changed throughout the day. We do not supply nappies/wipes and under Covid 19 restrictions we cannot leave nappies/wipes in the changing area. If your child runs out of nappies/wipes during the session, we will contact you to pop in to provide them. Many thanks for your support.

Staffing changes

Brianna, who joined us on a temporary basis from Winkleigh Primary School last term whilst completing her studies, will be leaving us to take up a permanent position working with children and young adults with profound behavioural difficulties. This is a new challenge for Brianna and we wish her every success in her new role.

Pre-school will be staffed by Tammie, myself and Abbi during this lockdown period. Abbi usually works in our Nursery Unit in Winkleigh. The children have already made her feel very welcome - dressing up as a patient in hospital, encouraging her to buy numerous items from the shop and cooking her Christmas dinner!

Thank you all for being so flexible during this lockdown period. I appreciate that many of you have swapped sessions and decreased hours in order to ensure that the children can continue to play and learn with their friends at pre-school. We are really looking forward to an exciting half-term ahead and feel privileged to be able to share your child's learning and development with you. These are unprecedented times and we are strictly adhering to *Government Guidance for Early Years Settings and Schools*. We will inform you of any changes as the term progresses. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mrs Roadnight and the staff team.