

Pre-School News

Summer Term 2021



@Caterpillars_SS

Pre-school staff:

Mrs Pickering

Mrs Lomas

Miss Morel

Mrs Saha



We welcome some new children to pre-school again this term. They are settling in really well and everyone is enjoying making new friends.

You can keep up to date with some of the things the children get up to at pre-school by looking at our class blog on the school website. It's updated weekly and includes photos of activities.

Also, if you use Twitter you can find us there too; see above. We regularly post about our fun and games.

To help you keep in touch with us, here's our class email address:

caterpillars@shirley.cambs.sch.uk

We'd love to hear about you child's fun and achievements at home so we can celebrate them at school to!



Our whole school language is currently Hindi.

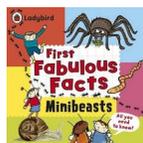
We are very lucky to have Mrs Saha in pre-school whose first language is Hindi. She will help us practice some simple words in her language and we will learn a little about India.

Topics



Our topic this term is People Who Help Us. The children will enjoy stories from favourite characters like Fireman Sam and Postman Pat as well as find out about things like the journey of a letter. Please talk to your child about what they do at pre-school as it will help them to remember things they find out.

Why not help them explore the topic further at home?



Our topic after the half term break will be Minibeasts.

We will help the children to observe and investigate the minibeasts they find at school in our nature area and pond.

The children will also enjoy stories and non-fiction books to help them learn about the world of minibeasts.

You could help your child hunt for minibeasts in your garden or at a local nature area. Help your child to name them and ask them questions the creatures' habitats. Which minibeasts are they particularly interested in? What else can you help your child to find out about them?

Diary Dates

- ◆ Week beginning 3rd May—Parent consultations
- ◆ Week beginning 10th May—Diversity week
- ◆ Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June—Half term
- ◆ Week beginning 14th June—National Health Week.
- ◆ Week beginning 5th July—End of year reports
- ◆ Wednesday 7th July—AM ice cream van visit
- ◆ Week beginning 12th July—Moving up week
- ◆ Tuesday 13th July—PM ice cream van visit



To continue developing the children's understanding of the world and their gross motor skills we visit our school field and nature on Monday & Friday AM and Tuesday & Thursday PM. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather/temperature. As the weather improves please remember to put sun cream on your child before bring them to school and provide them with a sun hat. (Please put their name in their hat!)





Learning to say number names in the correct order is a vital first step to successful counting. Please practicing this regularly with your child until they can do it without you.

The next step is practicing counting with 1-1 correspondence. Encourage your child to line up some objects and count them. Help them to:

Start at the beginning of the line, touch one item at a time while say a number name for each item (saying numbers in the right order, starting with number 1) and stop at the end of the line. Help them to understand that the last number said is the total number of objects.

Shape and measure is an important aspect of mathematical development. Children need to learn about shapes in their environment and the concept of measure to gain special awareness and mathematical understanding. You can promote this development by encouraging your child to play with puzzles and construction materials, as well as observe shapes in their environment.



Early Writing



We hope to be able to supply you with school reading book soon but, in the mean time please make time to read with your child.

Have fun together when you share books! This is their first step towards being a reader so it's important that they enjoy the experience. Encourage them to look at the pictures and talk about what they see. Can they find a letter on the page that is in their name? Or, other letters they might recognise? Ask them questions like "What might happen next?" and "How do you think this character is feeling?"

Below is a web link to an article on children's early writing from the Learning Together series by Early-Education.

<https://www.early-education.org.uk/sites/default/files/Making%20their%20mark%20-%20children's%20early%20writing.pdf>

It shares clear information about how to support your child's early mark-making and way in which children's mark making develops around the ages of three and four.



The children will practice a new song/rhyme at pre-school each week. So you can practice at home too we'll add it to pre-school's home learning page on the Shirley School website.

Regularly sharing rhymes is a great way of encouraging children's recognition of rhythm and rhyme. It is important to let them play with words and sounds as it supports early brain development and helps to build foundations for early learning.

A combination of enjoyment and educational benefits make sharing and reciting rhymes an ideal first introduction to the sounds in language for the early years.