



Head Teacher:

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Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have returned after the half term break with big smiles and a keen attitude for learning. Often young children really benefit from routine and we have no doubt that this will contribute to their smooth return to school life. We are thrilled to see the smiles and are watching friendships start to blossom now too. At this age though children often still do like to play on their own alongside other children.

We have an exciting new topic based on the heading 'Explore, Watch and Grow' which involves investigations, monitoring changes and looking at some plants and their growth.

We will focus on different weekly themes, the first being 'temperature'. Next week we shall begin to think about 'Spring and New Life' and this will see the arrival of some 'Living eggs' which the children will get to monitor for changes over a two week period. During this time it is hoped that they will of course hatch which can offer very exciting, awe and wonder type moments. We will also plant some seeds and beans and talk about how we can care for these.

We shall also have a Food Technology week when we look at and talk about different food processes involved in certain food preparations and some changing food states ie, jelly making, melting of chocolate and toast from bread.

We shall also look at and explore the use of magnets and help the children to understand that not everything is magnetic and also that depending on how these are held they may indeed attract or repel. We will also be enjoying Science week although as you can see from our topic and its breakdown it is very heavily science based. Those of you who are planning on creating your own science projects will hopefully appreciate that these can be as small or as big as you wish. It could be as simple as growing your own cress head vegetable and finding out what was needed to help the seeds grow.

Our letter sounds for this half term will be e,u,r,h and b although we should emphasise that we are constantly going over the other letter sounds already introduced to the children. You will receive shortly in your child's box a copy of the letter sounds covered so far in order to help your child practise these and to revisit them on a regular basis. We have noticed many children, rather than naming a particular letter sound, actually recite the first line of the Jolly Phonics song ie, instead of 'p' they say candles on a pink, pig cake and for 's' they say 'the snake is in the grass'. To know the song is great but they need also even with the action prompt to use the sounds alone too. These could be kept in a scrap book so the children know they can keep referring to it over time.

After a focus on a variety of maths topics last half term we shall base our maths work around numbers again this half term and will be working on number sequences, number recognition and careful number formation up to number 5 and then 10 as appropriate. We are hoping to see a move into Spring weather wise over this half term and will learn weather and season songs. We ask that you continue to please send your child with a suitable warm coat and gloves and a hat as the weather can be very changeable and whenever possible we do like to get the children outdoors for their learning.

Thank you for your continued support with the Splatt Bags. The memo on the noticeboard for the return of these seems to be working so we will continue to use the green and red signs to indicate the bags' green or red label return dates.

We are offering consultation times shortly for the parents of those children who were attending Nursery in the last academic year ie, 2014 to 2015 and also for the parents of our New Starters who joined us in recent weeks. We will put up lists for you to sign up for a time in the Nursery Entrance.

We will continue to visit the Studio and PE Hall for general movement to music, handling of instruments and team games. This term we have been building on throwing and catching skills and we have been very impressed.

We also visit the ICT suite weekly where the children work hard practising new skills or applying their learning in different play situations.

We would like to thank you for your continued support. Your children are a delight and are making pleasing progress. Everyone has their own individual path for learning and it is our job to help them take their next steps along this path as and when they are ready. We also encourage them, by building on their confidence, to sometimes take a bigger step in order to help them overcome worries in a certain area.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead.

Useful dates -

World Book Day - (dress up as character from a book day) - Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Science Week - Mon March 14<sup>th</sup>- Fri March 18<sup>th</sup>

Living Eggs (chicks to hatch) Arrive Mon 29<sup>th</sup> February and collected Fri 11<sup>th</sup> March

Thank you

Mrs C.Lewis

Mrs S.Little