

# Pre-School Post

Hello all,

The weather has turned a corner and things are looking brighter already, the children (and staff!) seem happier with the sun shining on us all.

The children have loved exploring in the meadow garden, digging in the large sand pit, mud kitchen exploration and rolling or sliding down the hill. We can hear the birds chirping loudly and the children have been checking if their homemade feeders have been eaten!

We have spent time looking at the planets and created a few using paint, threading as well as enjoying the space tuff tray set up. A space rocket was made; complete with controls and we acted out a space journey as part of our music and movement sessions.

The vets role play has been popular. The children enjoy caring for the animals, talking about their illnesses or own experiences of poorly pets. Some of the children enjoyed being the pet including getting in the large cage. No child was caged for too long with so much fun to be had elsewhere!

This week the children have been busy making creations ready for Mother's Day (this Sunday Dad's in case you had forgotten!). We hope these put a smile on Mum's faces.

Upcoming themes are Spring and Easter.

*Kerry Evans*

*Pre-school Manager*

## Pre-school start and finish times

A reminder to everyone Pre-school start time is 9am. Any child arriving after this time would need to call the school office if arriving late to ensure lunches are ordered. Any absences are recorded for safeguarding purposes.

Collection time at the end of the day is **3pm** and any late collection must be notified immediately via the school office to avoid late collection charges.

## Clothes

Please ensure your child has named clothes in Pre-School. With the warmer weather coming children often need to remove layers as the day warms up and items get misplaced or lost if not labelled.

All children should have spare clothes in their bags as we do get messy sometimes, or accidents can happen. Children do not always recognize their belongings and this can be very time consuming for us and frustrating for parents when items go missing.

Where possible children need shoes they can manage themselves. We change shoes for active bodies, dressing up, as well as wellies for some activities. Children are encouraged to do these self-help skills themselves. If extra time is given they can manage very well. Practice makes perfect!

We are Stockbridge Superheroes!



## Phonic sound S

The older children have started their phonic sounds in group time, and we have been listening to the sound "S" They have identified some things that begin with this sound and formed it on the magic wipe board starting at the top and snaking all the way down to the bottom using their pointy index fingers.

Can they remember some things beginning with this sound?

The letter fairy has returned and left a trail of S hiding around pre-school, they were even hidden in lunchboxes on sandwiches! She fly's in when we are not looking.....

## Early Years Foundation stage curriculum (EYFS)

Whilst it may look like we spend a lot of our time playing, the children are in fact learning and developing as part of an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum – this is not because we are led and managed by the school – any pre-school should work under the EYFS curriculum and plan children's learning based on what they can do and what their next steps are.

We work hard to ensure children are developing and meeting the milestones needed to reach their full potential. As part of this we work closely with both Mrs Cooper, (Sprat and Winkle Teacher) as well as other outside teachers from other schools and professionals to best meet the needs of each individual child. One thing many parents want to focus on is school readiness; I prefer to call these, life skills. We don't just learn to do these things for school but to be independent and self-sufficient learners.

Over the coming weeks I will add regular entries to class dojo for you to reflect on how these skills may be being achieved for your child, and what this may look like. I will share with you our top 10 Skills to be achieved by the time children transition from pre-school to school. Whilst Covid may have impacted on some gaps in learning and social skills we collectively can work together as parents and professionals to ensure we set our children up ready to reach these life skills and help them be independent learners in future school years.

A YouGov report recently found:

- 98% of teachers report children are starting school unable to listen/respond to instructions.
- 86% of teachers report children who are not able to sit and eat independently.
- 54% of teachers report less than half their class start with basic number skills, counting recognizing numbers, what comes next, can we make new numbers if we put two groups together?

### Class Dojo

The children really enjoy sharing their photos and parent added entries with their friends. They can use these to talk about experiences and special times encouraging language skills and friendship bonds. Keep them coming, they are great!

If you have trouble accessing Dojo please speak to a member of staff who will do their best to help you.



### Sun cream

We are forever hopeful the weather is moving into summer and the sun will be present more, to keep each child safe we will be sending home a permission letter with each child to enable us to apply sun cream should the need arise. More details about this will be on the letter. Please read carefully and return the slip. At the end of term we will also send home bags ready to refresh clothes for warmer weather and some children may have outgrown spares.

### Plants and Herbs

If anyone has any kitchen herb cuttings/plants they would be able to donate to Pre-school we would really appreciate it as part of our next theme and giving children a rich sensory experience. The children can add these to our Garden Centre role play and mud kitchen creations.

Basil, tarragon, lavender, chives, oregano, coriander – any and all would be great please!



### Diary Dates

Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Garden working party 10-12pm
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Bag2school 10-12pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of term Easter Holidays
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Start of Summer term

My email, should you need to contact me, is [K.evans@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk](mailto:K.evans@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk)