



Pre-School Post

Hello,

The past fortnight we have been busy boosting our number knowledge with many fun activities to help us recognize shapes, patterns, numerals and begin to subitise (recognise the numbers without having to actually count them as you might on a dice face). We will continue to encourage this learning even though our focus this week has extended to transport and construction. I am sure some of you will have heard about our train ride music and movement session, which is always popular with the children as they get to role play a train journey and visit many imaginary places along the way. We also celebrated a dad who passed a lorry driving test!

The art work some of the children have been bringing home is reflective of transport in the paint and mud as we observe the different tyre patterns, sizes and discuss our own knowledge around this, consolidating maths knowledge in practical activities.

Have a great holiday!

Kerry Evans
Pre-school Manager

Clothing

It's been so lovely to have the sunshine back and with it, a change to more summery clothing but whilst the mornings are chilly, a jumper or warm top is still advised.

Please, can we ask you to **label your child's clothing** well before coming into the setting. It doesn't need to be fancy stickers, a sharpie pen with initials is really helpful and avoids lost, missing items.

We still require children to be in suitable footwear to endure an active session at pre-school. Croc's/ flip flops are great for water play but NOT suitable for riding bikes, running or active play including climbing trees in meadow garden.

No Crocs please, they cause more accidents than fun!

Remember to apply sun cream before attending pre-school

Top tips for lunches

We store lunches on a small trolley in the class for those who bring a packed lunch. If you would like any cold items such as dairy products kept cold please put a cold/ freezer block in to ensure they stay fresh. We are unable to store children's food items in our small fridge, which is for snack items and milk purchased by school only.

A handy tip is to freeze water/squash in a water bottle and this acts as both a cold drink, which slowly melts throughout the morning and a cold pack against food items. **We are a nut free school** so no items containing nuts are to be brought on site and all fruits which are potential hazards are to be cut length ways to avoid choking. This includes berries such as blueberries, strawberries, grapes and cheese should not be cubed.

As part of healthy eating and independence we are trying to encourage children as much as possible to attempt opening their own packets, yoghurts etc. We will of course help them but also know this is a good skill to have as they move onto eating lunch in a school hall. Hand over hand support to show how we open a packet of crisps is much more useful than squeezing the bag until its contents explodes over the floor. Equally those having hot lunches are being reminded to use cutlery and attempt to cut their own food using a knife.

The cost of a school meal (hot dinner) is unavoidably going up to £3 after half term we are sad to announce.



Garden play and ticks

We enjoy spending time in the meadow garden digging in the sand, climbing on the play equipment and trees we also roll/slide and heave ourselves up and down the grass banks. We usually wear salopettes for this play but as the weather temperature heats up so do our waterproofs.

Children are encouraged to wear old trousers with their school logo tops that you do not mind if they get muddy, messy and easily wash out. Ticks can be picked up as we play on the school field, garden and generally everyday may go unnoticed. Please check your child, carefully in the bath/shower and as they undress daily. Ticks can appear in places that have been both covered and exposed by clothing.

Tick advice for removal can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease>

Mini Marathon

The children have been taking part in this daily event, running and walking around the outskirts of the school field twice. We have some good pace setters, but Mrs Evans is still a bit competitive too!

Thank you to those of you who have already submitted sponsor money.



Dates for the next half term

29th May – 2nd June	Half term week
5th June	Inset day
7th June	Class and whole school photos
17th July	Sports day (Details to follow)
20th July	End of year party (am – details to follow)
21st July	Last day of term

Top Ten for 4 year olds (last year in Pre-School)

	Top 10 Aims	Educational programmes
1	Get dressed and undressed independently	Physical Development
2	Mealtime behaviours – use cutlery, pour own drink, clear away, routines of mealtime eg. Sit & eat	Physical Development
3	Meet own toileting needs – wiping, washing hands, getting redressed	Physical Development
4	Play with an awareness of people's ideas and manage conflict	PSED
5	Be able to make meaningful marks, including writing their name	Physical Development & Literacy
6	Sit for the duration of a story/group activity and contribute appropriately.	Communication and language
7	Know numbers to 5 well; subtilizing, counting 1:1, recognising numbers	Maths
8	Make their needs known; ask & request	Communication and language
9	Show respect for others in conversations and play	Communication and language
10	To keep trying when things are tough	PSED

Last newsletter we shared the top 10 for 3 year olds curriculum, this newsletter you can now see the priorities for 4 year olds. These are incremental steps which as an early year's team including Mrs Jefferies (Head teacher), Mrs Cooper (current Year R teacher) and myself, which we all have a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise between us to best make judgements on child development and learning potential and created this curriculum at this important milestone.

Are you observing your child doing these skills? If so don't forget as primary carer, you can include your input on these areas on Class Dojo.



My email, should you need to contact me K.evans@stockbridge.hants.sch.uk