

Pre-School Post

Hello,

Welcome back after the half term. We have heard about many special family times that have been had with both parents and grandparents during last week, the children are full of news.

This week we started with an inset day and some important first aid training took place to ensure we are up to date with current practices and a refresher of CPR. We have settled a few new children as well as got stuck into child led learning and play. We can collect lots of observations and extend upon next steps through these experiences.

Our upcoming theme is spring and noticing the changes around us. We plan to plant spring bulbs, inset and bug hunts and many more exciting activities.

We have seen more posts uploaded about walks and adventures, keep them coming as the children love sharing and talking about their experiences. This helps will listening and communication skills both for themselves and others. It creates those strong links between home and pre-school helping the child feel secure and confident.

Kerry Evans

Pre-school Manager

Sun cream

Despite the rain, the sun is low in the sky in spring and catches us out by lunchtime with its strong rays.

A letter will be coming home requesting permission to re-apply cream at lunchtime. This is provided by pre-school as part of your consumables charge.

ALL children should arrive with cream already applied by yourself at home. As you can imagine it is a time consuming task applying sun cream to 10, 15, 20 children and for this reason we ask you to apply before arriving enabling us to be able to get stuck into other educational activities. Please do not be offended if you are asked to apply if forgotten. We are protecting and keeping your children safe and healthy.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE SUNCREAM IN BAGS OR ANY MEDICATIONS.

Literacy in the Early years

The early years is an important time in building literacy skills for under 5's. Ways we encourage these fundamental skills are:

- Talking and sharing conversations and discussions, explaining actions, labelling encourage language
- Reading stories, listening to language, encouraging children to contributing to the story, what do you think is going to happening now and next? Why do you think that?
- Recognising print in the environment around them, labels, name cards, logos and more
- Children make up their own stories using puppets in the puppet theatre creating a beginning, middle and end. At this stage it looks very simple but the foundations of story thoughts and creations. E.g., One day there was a crocodile he went swimming and ate a boat. Children have opportunities to retell familiar stories such as Gingerbread man and Gruffalo. Stories with repetition are great for helping to build literacy skills such as the three little pigs.

We are having a focus and literacy boost in pre-school reading books and noticing rhymes as part of our group activities. We would like to encourage these activities at home and would love to hear about them on Class Dojo. Children love to share what's happened at home with friends and this is fab for encouraging language and conversational skills with both us and their peers.

"The literacy experiences that children have before they start school form powerful brain connections. These connections are used for language, thinking and understanding. Without activities like talking, singing, reading, rhyming, scribbling and drawing, the brain doesn't develop these important connections"

For more information please click the links:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/early>

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/preschoolers/play-learning/literacy-reading-stories/developing-literacy-years/>

Contact numbers and personal information

A reminder to keep all personal information and contact details we hold for you and your child up to date. Have you changed job, work numbers, moved house, updated a mobile phone number? This also applies to emergency contacts.

All changes to be made via the school office.



Food and packed lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch to pre-school please ensure all fruits such as blueberries, grapes and strawberries and cut length ways in half. This is to avoid a choking hazard. This guidance is advised for all young children, a grape and some blueberries are the same size as their throat and will easily block their airway.

For guidance or healthy food ideas including meal plans for inspiration please click here:

<https://www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/family-food-fun-and-fitness>



No Nuts or Nutella please we are a nut free setting

Dates for the diary

4 th – 8 th March 2024	Readers to visit school (see below)
7 th March 2024	World book day dress up
28 th March 2024	Last day of term
15 th April 2024	Return to school Summer term
16 th April 2024	Notification date for year R applications
6 th May 2024	May bank Holiday School closed
21 st May 2024 2pm	Time for a cuppa for Dementia (Details TBC)
27 th – 31 st May 2024	May half term

Reading Visitors and World book day

We would like to invite parents, grandparents and friends in to read to the children to support our literacy development. Children love to hear different readers as they offer different stories, change of voices and imagination to encourage a love of books – an important fundamental of life learning. Don't worry, the teachers are not going to put their feet up with a coffee, they will be on hand to support those who are still learning to sit, listen and contribute appropriately. The children are so in awe of new readers they are often really good listeners. If you feel you could read a short story please speak to a member of staff who can arrange a suitable time.

World book day

Books and stories at bedtime should be an integral part of a child's life. To celebrate this, on 7th March children are invited to wear their PJ's to school and bring their favorite bedtime book, staff will aim to share as many as possible throughout the day. Feel free to flood Class dojo with your literacy activities and special times.

Did you know?

The local libraries hold many different events for children (and Mums and Dads) including craft, construction, rhyme time and story time all of which are completely free. If you would like to know more click the link: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/kids-zone/events>

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