



# Pre-School Post



Hello,

Welcome back after the holidays I hope you all enjoyed the break, we have heard many stories from the children, lots of them involving chocolate.

This is my favorite term of the year as the children are fully settled, often attending more sessions as they enjoy coming and so are confident to try new and more adventurous things. The weather is better and the children enjoy outdoor exploring.

The pace of learning is lively as we combine many previously learnt ideas and activities to new and more challenging ones.

We are currently focusing on a theme based around good eating habits to enjoy healthy eating and what better way to encourage this than with superheroes like healthy eating!

We aim to teach good oral hygiene, sampling of wider variety of foods both at snack time and lunch time through our healthy school meals cooked in the main school and sampling food from the tasting plate.

If your child try's new foods or wants to show us how they brush their teeth well at home upload a picture to class Dojo for us to see.

Kerry Evans

Pre-school Manager



## Sun cream reminder

**As the weather becomes brighter please remember to apply sun cream before the children arrive at pre-school or allow time to apply it once at school as pre-school staff will only re apply at lunch time or as deemed necessary. Low sun can be as damaging as at peak times.**

## Diary dates

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	May Bank holiday No school
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2pm	Time for a cuppa (More details to follow)
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half term week

## Fine Motor Development

Fine motor development refers to the smaller movements we do with our fingers, gripping, squeezing, twisting, rolling all skills we encourage through threading, playdough, water play, manipulating larger items in mud kitchen, painting etc all of which help to strengthen and develop those important muscles which help to enable strong fine motor actions.

You will have seen previously that the children have used finer paint brushes to gain control while painting or stampers, chalks and rollers as well as pens to begin their writing including their names. We shared on class dojo how we were encouraging all our older children to recognize the letters and arrangements that create their name as well as practicing the correct letter formations in lower case apart from the initial of their name which should be a capital. Over the two week holiday many children seem to have forgotten how to hold their pencil correctly! Please can you support this important development at home by encouraging your child to hold the pen in a 3 finger grip that looks like above. This will ensure your child has a comfortable grip when writing more and avoid bad habits forming in this early stage. **We say "pinch it like a crab", or "pinch and flip" (when retrieving off a surface such as a table)** We will continue working on the name recognition skills and re visit the writing which we hope wont take longer to remember, the correct formation will be indicated by starting arrows as prompts for your child. Maybe you can encourage this by hiding post it note letters around the house – can they make their name with the letters they find? Or Use our name cards we send home.

See below some picture of us working on our fine motor skills.



## Items to enhance play and development

As part of helping your children to develop well with a good foundation knowledge through their play, I like to offer the children as many real life items as possible. From these items children not only feel their play has more purpose than a plastic one and like to feel more grown up, but also they use a wider vocabulary as they play and learn from each other. Examples of this is imagine children playing in the mud kitchen with saucepans and pots. They over fill them, try to carry them and realize how heavy they are filled with mud and water, they then problem solve how to best manage the task in hand, sharing transferring to other pots, it spills sometimes and they lose their dinner on the floor, they laugh, play, get cross, start again and remember not to fill it so much or to make several trips. All the time this is happening they are thinking, processing, learning, talking through their plans with others, others offer help and more importantly they learn through fun and exploration. They practice acting at what they have seen at home, "oh look I've burnt it now" was the response from one child who used the microwave too much.

Over time being outside and in the mud items need replacing, We would like to ask you to look out for the following items when clearing out garages, cupboards etc.

- Saucepans, pots, pans, plates.
- Utensils such as slotted spoons, wooden spoons, spaghetti stirrers, whisks and any other utensils but no knives thank you.
- Colanders, mixing bowls, kettles and jugs.
- Kitchen herbs cuttings that we can plant to grow and use in our delicious mud kitchen dinners.

We also need **mud** and lots of it! Our mud gets mixed with water and rain and ends up washed away or disintegrates over time, so if anyone has a garden project and are able to spare a bag it needs to be natural earth not shop brought compost we would appreciate it. Thank you!



## School leavers

Most of you will now have been notified of your school place for September Reception year of school. Please notify a member of staff which allocation you have been offered so staff are aware.

There are still another 19 weeks before September when they start, 13 of these weeks at pre-school. We will continue to help your child reach their full learning potential in this time; we don't like to cause more anxiety about the pending change so we don't push the subject of school. Much in the same way you wouldn't want to celebrate Christmas in August with lots of hype! This can be an unsettling time as adults buzz about new uniform, changes and "going to big school" children can become unsettled by talk of change.

We are here to support the transition with you all and will as always ensure a smooth transition to both those families going to Stockbridge, and other receiving schools, we have good links with all our local schools.

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