



Pre-School Post

Hello!

We were so proud of your children this week – those in on Tuesday came out in force and joined in with our skipathon so brilliantly. The foundations of an active life start young and every child tried so hard to master their skipping skills – it's very tricky when you first start to learn! The team in pre-school have been working with them to teach them how to flip the rope from their backs, over their heads and onto the floor and then step over it. If you have a length of rope at home, they could continue to practice this – the more practice, the more confident and very soon, this turns to a hop and a skip. They skipped continuously for 45 mins – no mean feat when you're that young.

Next term, we'll have a real focus on balance and pedal bikes as the weather warms up and we can get onto the playground a little more.

As well as Miss Hatt joining the team temporarily in pre-school you may have noticed another face on the team. A crucial part of our role in school is to bring through the next team of teachers, practitioners and support assistants. We are delighted to have Miss Best join us every Wednesday and then for blocks of a week each month as she is developing her skills and acquiring her Level 2 NVQ in childcare. She is super kind and gentle with the children and takes a real interest in what they're learning and exploring.

I hope this newsletter gives you a quick update of what's going on in pre-school and the great things your children and getting up to. Each week, the team upload a 'story' of what's been happening onto Dojo and will increasingly be uploading individual photos and evidence of learning in pre-school so if you have any problems accessing Dojo, please see one of the team as a first port of call.

Kind regards,

Emma Jefferies



Rainbow Rules

In 'big' school, we have clear values that drive all of our work with children and we work hard to teach the children about how to live by these values which will set them up as learners for life. In pre-school, we have a more accessible version of these for our younger children. We have moved them down to our young children's level and we're talking about them all of the time with the children. They have a photo of themselves which they move onto the specific rainbow rules as they work on them. Children are really owning their efforts and it's proof that they are rising to meet the challenges – during the skipathon, Luca had been trying so hard to skip and keep going and approached Miss Cartwright himself and said "I can go on the keep trying board, I trying to skip!" YES!



Developing young readers

You might have seen Miss Hatt's Dojo entry about access to the library. You will almost certainly have noticed that your child has had an exciting library book for home.

In small groups, the children come over to the school library where we have a treasure trove of books for them to select from and borrow.

There is a huge amount of research into the impact of reading to your child regularly.

By the time they're 5, children who are:

- never read to, have heard, on average 4,662 words
- read to 1-2 times a week, have 63,570 words
- read to 3-5 times a week, have 169,520 words
- read to daily, have 296,660 words
- and, shockingly, **5 books a day** means they'll hear **1,483,300** words

THE IMPACT IS NOT THE SAME IF USING AUDIO BOOKS.

2 year old checks

We are privileged to have your child in our setting and we get to see so many of those precious moments in their development. Your child is working through the Early Years curriculum and marking their development at key milestones is a crucial part of our role along with you as you see them more than us!

If your child is with us either as a 2 year old or a child who has just turned 3, we have a requirement from Government to undertake a 2 year old check with you, if possible, in alignment with your child's health visitor although this isn't always possible.

The Early Years curriculum has helpful milestones and checkpoints which we have used to inform our process.

We have updated our 2 year old check process and if this applies to your child, their key worker will be in touch with you to make a time to go through this with you.

Thanks for your assistance in advance.

Top 10 in your child's development

Each year, the team in pre-school and Year R in school use their knowledge of your child and your child's cohort to draw up a 'top 10' of age appropriate goals that will ensure your child successfully meets their age developmental goals. Each half term, we then focus on 2 of these and design a lot of provision around them in the setting.

These are the goals we're currently working on:

Goals for 2 & early to mid 3 year olds	Goals for late 3 year olds and 4 year olds
Can follow an instruction that has 2 parts <i>(Communication & Language)</i>	Show respect for others in conversation and play <i>(Communication & Language)</i>
Can ride a balance bike, catch a ball and make 2 feet jump together <i>(physical development)</i>	Meal time behaviours – independently use cutlery, pour own drink, clear away, and join in with the routines of meal times. <i>(physical development)</i>

Snack anyone?

We have been developing independence at snack times with a free choice snack bar. Children are utterly brilliant at helping themselves to a healthy snack choice and pouring their own drinks from the jugs of water and milk available. Please do encourage this at home, they are so proficient in pre-school.

