

EARLY LEARNING NEWSLETTER November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers:

We hope you've had a good ½ term break with your children and we're pleased to welcome you back to pre-school for the second half of the Autumn term.

1. Now that the children have all settled in to the new routine and are getting to grips with our key targets, (kind hands, listening ears and walking feet indoors) we have begun working on the Letters and Sounds Programme to support early phonics. We help children to develop their listening skills, so that they are able to discriminate sounds in words; supporting rhythm and rhyme to hear the rhythm of spoken and written language and playing with sounds, to begin to make the sounds in words that they will later read in books. Our Phonics music programme, 'Boogie Mites' is used in the nursery to support children's phonological awareness and as we know, music is great fun for everyone. To further support reading readiness, we share books every day both on a one-to-one basis and in groups. We encourage children to enjoy the pleasure of books so that they have a strong desire to read alone in the future. Don't worry about letters, words and flash cards...these can come later. For now, we focus on having fun and developing those listening skills with your children!
2. By now you will have seen the new 'calm area' in the nursery, where we encourage children to go to take a break if they are finding it difficult to manage their behaviour in the room. Sometimes, they just feel tired and need some calm time to help them to self-regulate. Alongside this, our THRIVE practitioner, Sharron, has introduced a 'Mindfulness Programme' to the children. Mindfulness is a tool that will help children to tune into their own bodies and learn to understand their feelings. With help from Sharron and the breathing exercises, the children are already beginning to be able to talk about how they feel and take advantage of the five minute slot in the busy day, to wind down and reflect.
3. You will have noticed that your child's learning journal on Tapestry has been updated over the past weeks by your child's play-partner. In order to work with you to ensure we capture everything that your child does well and enjoys, we would like to invite you to meet with your play partner during this half term, to discuss your child's progress and learning needs.

If you haven't yet made appointments please speak to your play partner directly or book a time slot with Rebecca, in the pre-school office. Meetings will be strictly 20 minutes per child/family. Please be on time for your meeting and be ready to finish on time in order to be fair to others.

The evening meetings will all take place on the same date: Tuesday 19th Nov, 2019. Day-time appointments will vary according to our none-contact rota.

4. Christmas pre-school photographs will be taken by our amazing, 'in house photographer', Suzy Abbott. Suzy will take pictures of all children on their day of attendance during the week commencing 2nd December. As usual, we will make the photographs available for you to purchase. They make lovely Christmas gifts for grandparents and family members. If you want your child photographed with a younger sibling, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Best wishes,

Caroline, Vanessa and the team