



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year: Nursery Hedgehogs Spring Term 1 2019
Curriculum News letter
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Dear Parents/Carers,
Welcome to the second Nursery newsletter. We hope you had a restful break and are ready for the new term! Thank you for your kind gifts, cards and well wishes at the end of term, these were much appreciated.

This half term, our topic in **Hedgehogs** is 'Brown Bear Brown Bear' a book by Eric Carle. This is a lovely gentle, repetitive story to engage all of the children and make way for lots of activities about colour and colour mixing, counting and number work, animals and their habitats. It is one of our favourite books and the children will learn the song version too. We will also be looking at the books 'Mouse Paint' by Ellen Stoll Walsh, 'Elmer' by David Mckee and 'The Mixed up Chameleon' by Eric Carle as we explore colour mixing in more depth.

Prime areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional:

- Working and playing together in a group. Sharing ideas and responding to others
- Adapting behaviours to different events and changes in routine i.e using the hall
- Enjoying carrying out small tasks through 'Star of the day' times
- Aware of own feelings and knows that some actions and words can hurts others feelings

Physical development:

- Drawing lines and circles using gross motor movements – during 'Write Dance'
- Copying some letters e.g. letters from their name and names of animals
- Observing the effects of activity on their bodies during hall times and in the garden.
- Experimenting with different ways of moving both inside and outside.

Communication and Language:

- Listening to others, one to one or in small groups – sharing news
- Joining in with repeated refrains through stories and rhymes
- Beginning to understand how and why questions when learning about the animals
- Questioning why things happen and giving explanations
- Using intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others

Specific Areas:

Literacy:

- Enjoying rhyming and rhythmic activities
- Showing an awareness of rhythm and alliteration
- Listening to stories with increasing attention and recall
- Looking at fiction and non-fiction books independently and with care

Mathematics:

- Showing an interest in representing numbers and representing how many objects in a set
- Sometimes matching numerals and quantity correctly when making sets of animals
- Ordering 2/3 items by length/height of animals
- Using positional language as we play the 'Bear hunt game'

Expressive Arts and Design:

- Beginning to move rhythmically and imitating movement in response to music and through the daily '5 a day sessions'
- Using various construction materials – build houses and dens for our animals
- Engaging in role play based on first hand experiences
- Exploring colour and how colours can be changed. Exploring what happens when they mix colours.

Understanding the World:

- Talking about some of the things they have observed
- Talking about why things happen and how things work
- Knowing that information can come from the computer

Letters and Sounds

Also this term we will be beginning some 'Letters and Sounds' work starting with sound and noises in the environment. In the class we will be playing a variety of listening games and playing musical instruments. We will be going on a walk around our school grounds to listen for the different sounds, distinguishing between loud and soft sounds, high and low pitched sounds and noises of animals and humans make compared to those of machinery. As a home learning task we would like you and your child to think about the different noises in your home environment. Ask your child to listen to the noises of the washing machine, the T.V, the road sweepers, the emergency vehicles etc. Ask them to guess any noises they don't know.

Hall times and Write Dance

We will continue using the main school hall this term to help the children develop their gross motor skills and also to start our 'Write dance' program. This program combines music and movement with early writing and phonics work. The children listen to a weekly story, act out the words, dance and sing along and use gross motor skills to make marks and letters on large paper. It is great fun!

Home Learning

Please spend some time sharing your child's 'Tapestry' pictures with them. If you are having difficulty accessing them please let us know so we can inform our ICT specialist. You can get your child to choose a favourite picture and ask them to talk about what they were doing.

If you find that your child is interested in learning to write their names, could you please show them a capital letter for the first letter only and lower case for the other ones. We will be doing some name recognition activities and getting the children to make marks on paper and whiteboards to represent the letters of their names too.

Holding a pencil, crayon or chalk is also one of the tasks we will be focusing on this term too. We will be getting the children to hold the mark maker in three fingers and often use the phrase 'snap snap fingers' making our three fingers open like a crocodile's mouth.

Important Spring term dates for your diaries:

Half term	Monday 18 th February
World book day	Thursday March 7 th
Parent Consultations	Wed 27th & Thurs 28th March
Easter (Last day of term)	Friday 5 th April

Other Important Information

Sickness

Please remember to inform the main school office if your child will be away from school. If they have sickness or diarrhoea or a temperature please keep them away from school for at least 48 hours and inform the school so we can monitor illnesses throughout the unit.

Being independent:

We are really trying to encourage the children to be as independent as possible. So please help your child to practise putting their own coat and shoes on by themselves. The nursery staff will always help with fasteners and give lots of praise to children who 'have a go' first when getting ready to go outside or change into dressing up clothes.

Nursery Library:

Our library in the Nursery foyer is full of lovely picture books. Your child is welcome to borrow books at any time from the Nursery Library. You can select books at the beginning or end of the day with your child and then return them when you are finished. Please keep to 3 or 4 books at a time. Thank you.

'Talk about' books

In addition to the library books we have a number of 'talk about' books that you are welcome to borrow too. We have a large variety of books for you to choose from; covering topics from New Babies, Moving house, Visiting the hospital or dentist, Losing teeth, Dummies, Biting, Nits and haircutting to books about dying to support your child if someone close to them dies and you want to talk to them about it. A full list of titles is available in the nursery. Please let a member of the nursery team know if you would like to borrow any of these books.

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We are looking forward to another productive and busy term. Thank you for your continued support, we looking forward to working with you this term.

Yours, The Hedgehog Nursery Team.

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