Welcome from the editor

Hello! The editor here, I hope you all had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year! We’ve been very busy and hard working in both the nursery and primary since we came back. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

In the nursery, the children have been having fun with nursery rhymes; reciting them, colouring, cutting and sequencing the order of the rhyme. They have learning about themselves, their appearance, their families and also healthy eating. They had lots of fun drawing around themselves and making life sized paintings. Mrs Fletcher has read the story of the “Gingerbread Man” and then they have made mini gingerbread men. Mrs Bee has shown them about portions and what they should have to eat each day, (look out for the display).

In the primary classroom, Mrs Everley has provided our parents and ourselves with timetables, so that we are aware how to plan our days. Sometimes we study continents, other times cooking, history about the Romans, gardening, mini beasts and healthy eating to reinforce the work done by the nursery. To mention just a few! So to find out more read on! There are lots of important dates for your diaries included in this edition so sit back and enjoy your read.

Dhriti
Dhriti Balakrishna, Editor

Headteachers Update  Helen Everley

Welcome back to all our children and parents, and welcome to all the new children and parents. This term has started really well, all the children have settled in very well and are happily learning. To those of you who are new to the nursery and school, every month the primary put together this newsletter as part of their technology curriculum. I do hope you enjoy it as much as I do.
Can all children that stay for lunch have a cold pack in their lunch box. This will ensure that their food remains cool and without risk. Also, we are prohibited to reheat home cooked rice, so please do not send it in. Rice is a very high risk food.

As children in the nursery are going through potty training, please send them in clothes that are easy to pull up and down. The Montessori philosophy encourages independence in children so clothes with elasticated waists help. PLEASE no baby grows or pants over the top of pull ups.

When thinking about your child’s development, coats and shoes with easy fastenings such as velcro and big poppers are much easier than laces or zips.

Please can all items of clothing be named. We have a lot of children at school all wearing the same uniform so it can be very confusing for the staff if there is no name to match clothing to child. It would be helpful to have bags, coats and lunch boxes named too.

Because the outside area gets so wet and also muddy can all the children bring in a pair of named wellies in a bag to be left on their peg. This will also help when the children are gardening.

Can all children bring a named pair of gloves for when they are outside or walking.

Mrs Wicks is making a sensory path, if you have any interesting offcuts of material that can be sewn or buttons please send them in.

TOP TIPS FOR TOILET TRAINING

Establish a good routine first:
1. Store and **change** nappies in the toilet area at home.
2. Check their clothing is accessible, (e.g. elasticated waists, no belts or bodies with poppers), and encourage self-care through helping them to wash and dry hands after each visit, pull up clothing, wiping themselves and flushing the toilet.
3. Try and change nappies with the child standing rather than laying them down.
4. Show them the poo in the nappy and if possible tip it into the toilet so they can see that this is where wees and poos go.
5. Try to avoid negative language, (urgh! Smelly), but use positive words “great! You've done a poo!”

Once you start potty training it’s a good idea to get rid of the nappies altogether in the daytime, (e.g. don’t put them on to go in the car/to the park). Don’t wear pull-ups until bedtime.

To encourage sitting on the potty you could sing a song, blow bubbles or show them a new book/puzzle. It doesn’t matter if they don’t do anything at first, praise them for sitting. If they have an accident remain positive and quickly take them to the toilet.
Active Kids vouchers are available to collect from all Sainsbury’s stores, petrol stations and when ordering groceries online, between Wednesday 29th January and Tuesday 20th May. Look out for the collection box in the entrance.

Norovirus

This is to advise you of the diarrhoea and vomiting illness which is present in the nursery and school at this time of the year and what you can do to reduce the spread of the infection.

Norovirus is commonly known as Winter Vomiting Disease and occurs commonly in the community and in schools and nurseries in particular at this time of the year.

What are the symptoms?
• diarrhoea and vomiting usually lasting 1 -2 days

What should you do if your child is unwell?
• Make sure they get lots of rest.
• Ensure they drink plenty of fluids, taking sips rather than gulps to avoid vomiting.
• Give infant Paracetamol or Ibuprofen, according to product instructions, to help keep their temperature down.
• If your child is unusually sleepy, won’t take fluids or has other symptoms, such as blood in their diarrhoea, an unusual rash, headache, neck stiffness or difficulty breathing, ring NHS Direct (08454647), contact your GP or take your child to hospital.

• Please ring nursery/school and let them know that your child is ill and what symptoms they have.
• Keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school.
However, if your child has been suffering from diarrhoea and vomiting keep them at home until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours.

How can you prevent the spread of infection?
Hand washing is one of the most important ways to prevent the spread of both of these infections. This applies to the child who is ill and the person looking after them. Hands should always be washed, using liquid soap if possible:
• Before and after caring for your child.
• After using the toilet.
• Before eating or handling food.
• After cleaning up a mess (vomit, faeces or urine).

Other ways of preventing the spread of infection are to:
• Keep a separate towel for family members who have symptoms.
• Dispose promptly of used tissues and other items that your child may have coughed or sneezed on.
• Wash soiled clothing, bed linen and towels in a washing machine. Use the hottest wash for that fabric.
• Clean baths and washbasins thoroughly and disinfect after use.
• If cleaning up diarrhoea or vomit, wash the surface with hot soapy water and disinfect before allowing to dry. If using bleach remember that it can remove the colour from fabrics and can burn the skin.

Keep your child away from other children and people that are particularly vulnerable, e.g. the elderly and those with chronic illnesses.
Dates for your diaries

HALF TERM
Monday 17th – Friday 21st Feb

Closes for Easter Fri 11th April

SUMMER TERM (11 weeks)
Monday 28th April

1st MAY – School closed for polling day

Wednesday 7th May
Bags 2 School collection

Wednesday 21st May
Group photograph

HALF TERM
Monday 26th – Fri 30th May

TERM ENDS FOR SUMMER
Wednesday 16th July

2 additional Teacher Training Days MAY be added

World Book Day 6th March-
dress up as your favourite book character.

Sport Relief Friday 21st March
Dress up in your favourite jumper and get jumping!

Shakespeare Week (primary only) 17-23 March

Dress up and dance in aid of Macmillan Cancer support - 20th June

Parent Teacher Association

Are there any mums or dads that would like to help some of the primary parents in running a parent teacher association?

We used to have a really strong parent group that used to like going out socially, supporting each other and also promoting the philosophy of our school and doing a little fundraising. Sign up on the notice board in entrance.

Website is being upgraded at present.

Please check for closures and forest school updates