



# Nursery Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

## **This week we have been...**

- Exploring with hot chocolate powder and water, weaving ribbons through a string web, using counters and matchsticks to make stick people to match a picture on a card and writing the initial letter in our name or tracing a wavy or spiral pattern in Muscle Moves!
- Playing games to help improve our listening and attention skills.
- Practising our 'Fred Talk'.
- Using multilink cubes to measure the height of some of our favourite characters.
- Carefully feeling Numicon wrapped in foil and using pens and whiteboards to record which numbers we have found.
- We have also been enjoying the beautiful sunny weather and doing lots of activities outside!

## **Important Dates and Messages:**

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day. Children are invited to come dressed at their favourite book character or their favourite author. On the day, children will be given a book token and sticker. We are looking forward to seeing your super outfits!
- The Coppice Book Fair will be from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, from 3.15pm - 4pm each day. Please look out around school for more information! (Please note that regrettably World Book Day vouchers cannot be used at the Book Fair.)
- As it is Pancake Day next week (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March) we will be mixing up batter to make pancakes! The children will all be able to eat a pancake at nursery with lemon and sugar. Please let us know if you do not wish your child to take part.
- This term our topic is 'People Who Help Us'. If any of you lovely parents are doctors, nurses, dentists, firefighters or police and have any information or would be willing to pop in to nursery to talk to the children about what you do we would be very grateful! If you know anybody who may be interested in doing this please let us know!
- Next week we will be enhancing our water trays to bath the babies (dolls). We are in need of empty bubble bath bottles and empty shampoo style bottles for the children to use. Please send in any you may have. Thank you! ☺

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Jasmin, Georgia, Jake, Ariana!**

## **Homework Activity**

For this half term, if you get a chance at the weekend we would like you to focus on physical development with your child. At Nursery we focus a lot on moving our bodies in different ways to improve our gross motor skills and on building hand and finger strength to improve fine motor skills. Focusing on this improves the children's core-strength, coordination and balance and also helps with pencil grip and control.

Some of the objectives that we focus on are:

- Can catch a large ball
- Use one-handed tools and equipment , e.g. makes snips in paper with child scissors
- Holds pencil between thumb and two fingers
- Can copy some letters, e.g. letters from their name

Below, we have some activities for you to try:

- Fill a pot with water and ask your child to 'paint' the garden fence with water. This is such a simple activity but always a popular one and is very good for developing arm muscle strength.
- Ask your child to help you to clean the windows, sweep the floor or dust around your house! Children love to be helpful and these activities are great for little muscles.
- Play catch with your child. Use a large ball and encourage your child to focus on watching the ball. When they catch it encourage them to bring it into their chest (so they don't drop it) and say 'catch it, hug it'.
- Use chalks to draw on the ground outside and then wash it away with a paint brush and water or use a spray bottle (these are super for developing finger muscle strength).
- Push a piece of spaghetti into a piece of 'Blu Tack' or playdough so that it stands vertically and thread Cheerios onto it to make a Cheerio tower! You could challenge your child to count how many cheerios they have used too!
- Thread pasta shapes onto string to make a bracelet (or superhero band!). If your child finds this tricky you could use big pasta tubes or could use smaller tubes or even macaroni to make it a bit more tricky.
- Perhaps you could find some large stones or pebbles and paint a picture on to them. Painting onto a smaller surface will encourage your child to use smaller, more controlled brush strokes. When you have painted your rocks you may wish to hide them around Wythall for somebody to find! (Wythall Rocks is a Facebook group where people paint and hide rocks and post pictures of ones they have found!).

These activities are for the next half term, so please don't feel you have to do them all this weekend. We suggest choosing one per week if you have time. Please let us know how your child gets on on SPTO, we love to hear! 😊