

Early Learning Newsletter

October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are coming to the end of the first half term of the school year. It has been a wonderful start to Preschool and we have really enjoyed being able to offer 'parent drop-in sessions' this term. It was lovely to see that so many of you could join us and the children really took pride in showing you around their Preschool; thank you so much for all the positive feedback.

We have celebrated Harvest and made some bread rolls and apple crumble. We have been looking at Autumn and all the different colours in nature, enjoying exploring pumpkins, acorns, and conkers. Some of the children made clay pots, gaining ideas from looking at the shape and markings on the pumpkins.

This past week we have been talking about 'Black History Month'. There are quite a few age appropriate bitesize bits from the CBeebies website. Please click on the link below to share with your child:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/black-history-month-articles-from-bbc?collection=black-history-month>

We have been sharing the story 'My Hair' by Hannah Lee. Please see the link below for the story read by the author on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNet1W_TMqM

- 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 preschool 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 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) **We would like to remind new and returning families about pick up and drop off at preschool. The morning session is 9-12pm and the afternoon session is 12-3pm. We will greet you at the blue gate at the start of each session. Pick up at 3pm is at the preschool doors. Please can you arrive on time for the start of the sessions, as it causes disruption to Early Years, who are outside in their learning area after 9am. It also causes distress to the preschool children coming in halfway through their circle time. On a Monday in particular, all the team are off site, as they are down at the forest school area and this affects our ratio when a member of staff has to leave the site to come up to collect any late arrivals. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.**
- 3) Please can we make a request that you bring some wellies into nursery for your child if you haven't already done so? Children play outdoors in the mud and water all year round and wellies are essential. If you have a spare pair that you can leave here, all the better.
- 4) When we return after half term, we will be preparing for our learning conversations. These can be booked via Scopay. We suggest that you have a look at 'What to expect in the EYFS' on the preschool website prior to the learning conversations. This document explains child development and what we would generally expect children of age 3 and 4 years to be doing, so is definitely worth a read; but please remember every child is unique and is at different ages and stages of their development.
- 5) During half term, there will be a new lunch menu uploaded to the school website, so do take a look when deciding if your child would like school dinners or packed lunch.

Have a fantastic half term break and we look forward to seeing you all in November where I'm sure the preschool Christmas festivities will be getting underway.

Sharron and the Preschool Team