

Nursery

Acorn Class

Spring Term 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope you have had a good Christmas holiday and have been able to relax a little!

This half term we will be focusing on our new topic: TRADITIONAL TALES. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year (the Year of the Monkey) and starting Forest School on 24th February until 30th March (please see separate letter about Forest School.)

We will be focusing on Little Red Riding Hood, Goldilocks and the 3 Bears 3 Little Pigs, the Gingerbread Man, The 3 Billy Goats Gruff, Jack and the Beanstalk and the Little Red Hen. We will also be visiting Bockett's Farm on Tuesday 22nd March. We will need parent helpers for this trip (free entry) and there will be a sign-up sheet on the door nearer the time.

We will be teaching these topics through the 3 prime areas of development listed below:

Personal, social and emotional

- Playing in a group, extending and elaborating play ideas, e.g. building up a role-play activity with other children
- Being more outgoing towards unfamiliar people and more confident in new social situations
- Being aware of own feelings, and knowing that some actions and words can hurt others' feelings

Communication and language

- Joining in with repeated refrains and anticipating key events and phrases in rhymes and stories

- Beginning to understand how and why questions
- Questioning why things happen and giving explanations. Asks e.g. who, what, when, how.

Physical development

- Moving freely and with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways, such as slithering, shuffling, rolling, crawling, walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding and hopping
- Holding a pen confidently and making a range of controlled marks
- Understanding that equipment and tools have to be used safely

Also through the four **specific** areas

Literacy

- Beginning to be aware of the structure of stories
- Describing main story settings/events/principal characters
- Giving meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint
- Hearing and saying initial sounds in words

Mathematics

- Separating a group of three or four objects in different ways, beginning to recognise that the total is still the same
- Counting actions or objects which cannot be moved
- Beginning to talk about the shapes of everyday objects, e.g. 'round' and 'tall'
- Beginning to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes and 'flat' 2D shapes, and mathematical terms to describe shapes.

Understanding the world

- Showing an interest in different occupations and ways of life
- Knowing some of the things that make them unique, and can talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends or family
- Knowing that information can be retrieved from computers

Expressive arts and design

- Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things
- Tapping out simple repeated rhythms

- Using movement to express feelings

Things to remember:

PACT (reading) Folder

Reading at home is a valuable experience and can have a huge effect on your child's progress. It is very important that these are taken home daily and books are read every night to your child. We will begin to issue books once the children are settled.

Spare clothes

Please bring in a bag of spare clothes that can be left on your child's peg. This enables us to change your child if they wet themselves or get wet or dirty through playing in the water tray or painting.

Jewellery

It is school policy that no jewellery should be worn in school with the exception of stud earrings and watches. Children will be asked to remove hoop earrings in school.

Class fund

We ask for a donation of £1 each week which is used to help fund classroom activities (cooking ingredients etc.) This should be brought to school on Monday.

Lateness

Please ensure that your child arrives in school ready to be taken into class for 8.50am or 1.00pm. Children who are late cause disruption and miss the beginning of the lesson. The gate is locked at 9.00am. After this time you must take your child in via the main entrance. If your child is late then you must take your child to the classroom and then tell the office in person that your child is now in school. Please ensure that we know exactly who your child is leaving with at the end of the day.

Ideas to do at home

- Read 'traditional tales' such as Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, the 3 Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, the 3 Billy Goats Gruff, the Gingerbread Man until your child knows them by heart!

- Say the initial sound of words when you are talking e.g. 'let's go and find your j-j-jumper.' Or play a game 'can you find things in the house that begin with pppp?' I-Spy is also a great game for learning about initial letter sounds.
- Write shopping lists alongside your child so they become more aware of writing and why we do it.
- Use toys, puppets and actions to bring stories alive at home
- Do some drawing or writing every day.
- **Limit iPad or other tablet time to MAXIMUM 30 mins a day**
- Get out and about! (even when it is raining, if appropriately dressed) Visit Morden Hall Park, Cannizaro Park, Wimbledon Park, Deen City Farm, Polka Theatre, Wandsworth Common, Putney Heath, Bishop's Park, Richmond Park, swimming pools at Latchmere Leisure Centre and Wimbledon Leisure Centre.

Dates for the diary:

Early Years Breakfast: Fri 5th Feb 9.00-10.00

Parents' Evening: Weds 10th Feb 3.30-8.00

Thurs 11th Feb 3.30-5.00

Forest School: 24th Feb – 30th March (your child will have 3 sessions in a row)

Half Term: 15th – 19th Feb

Bockett's Farm trip: Tues 22nd March

End of term: Thurs 24th March at 2.00

If you have any questions, concerns or would just like to say hello please don't hesitate to meet with me before or after school when I will always be available.

Louise Ferris