



Westfield Nursery School
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Headteacher: Mrs Elizabeth Collins BA(QTS) NPQH



June 2024

Newsletter No 8 2023-2024

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Message from the Headteacher

How lovely to be back working full time now. I have observed children outside and inside, I have worked in class and supported at lunchtime. Your wonderful children have shown what independent learners they are; they demonstrate kindness and curiosity. I would like to once again thank those staff who have taken on and continue to support me by taking on extra responsibilities. We have such a busy half term ahead as you will see when you read on.



Our learning

In Bumblebees the focus has been going to the toilet and nappy changing. Children have been using the key words nappy, wipes, pants, knickers and toilet. The key text is 'Dinosaurs love Underpants!' Children have been using dolls as babies and helping change their nappies and using potties. Children have also been exploring junk modelling and learning how to use glue.



Children in Dragonflies class have been thinking about space. Key words have included planet (including the planet names), rocket, star and astronaut. The key text has been 'Whatever Next'. Children have enjoyed sensory play with soil and numbers. Children have been making rockets from recycled materials and enjoying the space station role play.



Ladybirds class have also been thinking about places. Key words have included town, road, farm and field. The key text is 'My town'. Children have been enjoying the role play hospital and the small world farm and train track.



The pupils in Caterpillars class have been learning about Superheroes and talent shows! Their keywords have included dance, sing, talent and superhero. The key text has been 'Supertato'. Children have been using the stage to perform with a different focus each day- such as singing and dancing including some ballet. The children have been using their imaginations to build a superhero city and access the superhero Numicon.



Children in Butterflies have been learning about Minibeasts. Key words include earwig, wasp, slug, beetle and centipede. Children have been exploring the indoor forest school area and using ladybirds to add and count spots.



Outside children have extended their water, sand and mud play.

Home Learning

The home learning for this half term is a number challenge. Please see the attached information. If you would like to share a photo of your child completing the challenge, please email it to your child's class.

bumblebees@westfieldnurseryschool.org

dragonflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org

ladybirds@westfieldnurseryschool.org

caterpillars@westfieldnurseryschool.org

butterflies@westfieldnurseryschool.org



NSPCC Pants Rule

This term our children will be taught the NSPCC pants rule. Pantasaurus helps children stay safe with five simple rules

Privates are private

Always remember your body belongs to you

No means no

Talk about secrets that upset you

Speak up, someone can help



Recommended Read

Try reading 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. The story follows the journey of a voracious **caterpillar** as it munches through various foods, teaching about counting, days of the week and food names. The book can also be seen by clicking the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY>



School Readiness (Taken from the 'Starting School' leaflet on the website.)

There are certain skills which will support your child in being ready for their life at school.

Can your child sit still and listen?

This means, can your child sit and listen, not to the television, but on other occasions which do not involve technology? Can they sit and listen to a story? Can they sit and talk over a family mealtime for a short time? Do they ask questions and listen to the response? Can they respond to simple questions appropriately?



Staff Update

We are delighted to

-welcome Miss Jasper and Mrs Ferguson who are both teaching in Caterpillar class.

-let you know Mrs Andrews, Miss Shaw and Miss Coleman successfully delivered new additions to their families.

We wish Miss Pratt well as she begins her shared parental leave.



Monitoring

My observation of outdoor learning showed

- ✓ Positive learning environments with organised, appropriate resources for children to self-access across **all** curriculum areas e.g. large spades for gross motor, books for reading, chalks for mark making etc.
- ✓ Staff were observed appropriately supporting language and communication e.g. simplifying language, repeating back, using commentary, asking open questions
- ✓ Staff were observed supporting literacy; early reading e.g. sharing books in reading area & mark making with a range of materials including chalks, pens and pencils
- ✓ Staff were observed supporting Maths e.g. measures
- ✓ Staff were using subject specific language
- ✓ Problem solving was seen e.g. using smaller pots in water tray to fill other containers
- ✓ The characteristics of effective learning were evident, especially playing and exploring & active learning
- ✓ There were outstanding relationships between adults and children and children and children
- ✓ Learning was enjoyed with smiles and humour
- ✓ There were high levels of engagement; all children were involved in learning
- ✓ Behaviour expectations were reinforced appropriately for example with a reminder about kind hands
- ✓ There were high levels of independence e.g. children making choices
- ✓ Children with different cultures, languages were learning together harmoniously
- ✓ Children with additional needs were sensitively supported



Waiting Before Sessions Begin

Please do not arrive too early as children get bored. Please ensure you are monitoring your child and their behaviour. Children should not

-Be digging up plants from the planters and picking the flowers off, these are planted for the whole community to enjoy

-Be climbing on the fences or gate as they may hurt themselves and the noise of the rattling gate disturbs staff working in the office



Safety on Site

We do not have phones out on site.

We do not allow vapes or smoking on site.



Telephones

We have a new telephone system for absences.

If your child is absent, you can press 1 and leave their name, class and reason for absence.

If you would like to talk to someone in the office, please press 2.



Governors

There were two meetings of our governing body this week. In the full governing body meeting governors scrutinised the headteachers report and discussed pupil groups such as progress for pupils with English as an additional language, progress against this year's school development plan, ways to further develop the school in September using information gained from internal and external monitoring visits. In the resources subcommittee meeting governors analysed the budget spend, contracts, benchmarking against other similar settings, health and safety and staffing.

Would you like to be a school governor? Being a school governor is a challenging but rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to our children, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills. We are hoping to add to our governing body with enthusiastic new members. More information can be found about the current governing body on our website under the staff and governors tab.

Support and training is available for new governors. If you would be interested please come to the office to find out more about the role.



Children with Additional Needs

We have added some signposting resources to our website to support families who have children with additional needs. There is a 'Support for pupils with Additional Needs' sheet which signposts organisations which can help. We have also added information about how to access a really useful book entitled 'Supporting your neurodiverse child' this is written by parents for other parents.



Fruit

Thank you for the kind donations of fruit for snack time.



Resource Request

We are seeking help to source the following

- trousers (aged 4-5 years only)
- paper
- felt tip pens
- wool, string or rope
- pieces of fabric



Consultations

If your child is returning to Nursery in September and you have not yet met or spoken to your child's class teacher please make an appointment.

Toddler Group Reminder

We hold a community toddler group every Monday from 1.00-2.30pm term time only in Bumblebees class and garden. Our grateful thanks to Dunstable Locality Children's Centre as the children's centre staff host our toddler group.



Class Photos (children only)

Class photos (Wednesday 26th June) are taken at the end of the year as a special keepsake for your child. Children who are in school and have permission given on their new starter form will be included in the photograph which will then be available for purchase. Details will follow from the photogapher.



Ark Farm Visit (children only)

Ark Farm visit on Thursday 4th July and bring a range of animals. Classes visit in turn and children get to hear about the animals before having the chance to pet them- this is a wonderful experience and because the animals come to us we can save the cost of a coach!



Teddy Bear's Picnic (children only)

At the end of term we hold a special Teddy Bears Picnic day. Children can bring a special teddy/ soft toy from home- *please ensure this is named*. Nearer the time we will be asking for a food donation for the picnic. Posters will be displayed with suggestions- please remember we are a no nuts site.



Leavers Assembly

Some of our children are graduating from Nursery and moving on to Lower or Primary school. On Thursday 18th July we are holding our Leavers Assembly at 11.00am for children in the morning session and 2.30pm for children attending in the afternoon. If your child is in the 30-hour class, please come to the session which fits your work pattern. (You are very welcome to attend if your child is returning in September too!) Children will be singing you some special songs they have learnt and children are awarded with their leavers certificate and medal. If your child leaves Nursery before this date there is a mini- celebration and presentation to them in their class.



Key Dates

Wednesday 26th June- Class photos (children only)
Thursday 4th July- Ark Farm Visit (children only)
Wednesday 17th July- Reports sent home for children transitioning to school
Wednesday 17th July- Teddy Bear's Picnic (children only)
Thursday 18th July- Leavers Assembly (Parents/ Carers invited)
Friday 19th July- Last day of term



Term Dates

27.05.24-03.06.24 Half Term School closed
19.07.24 Last day of Summer Term

