

# SUFFIELD PARK NURSERY NEWSLETTER



[nursery@suffieldpark.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:nursery@suffieldpark.norfolk.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01263 519325



## February 2019

### **What a fantastic half term!**

The children have settled in well and are enjoying the range of activities available to them. We would like to extend a warm Suffield Park welcome to children and their families who are new to the Nursery this term. We know there are some tears and that this can feel really difficult for families; starting nursery is a huge step, please make sure you let us know if you are worried about this, we will do all we can to help. It can feel like your child is the only one who is struggling with separating from you at the beginning of their session but please be assured that many of the parents of children who present as confident, independent and happy at the beginning of their sessions have had similar tricky experiences at their starting points too! Our Nursery is a busy one, please be assured that our staff will always make time to speak to you about your child's progress or if you have any concerns- just ask for an appointment if this isn't possible at the beginning or end of your child's sessions.

We will be holding our termly Nursery Parent's Evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 6-7pm. Please look out for 'sign up sheets' nearer the time, don't worry if you can't attend as we will always make an alternative appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Please do let us know about your child's learning at home. We really appreciate the lovely things you add to Tapestry and being able to see the wonderful experiences they have with you is so beneficial. It has been great to see such a range of activities from writing to meeting new babies to cooking to skiing! It is extremely useful for us to know about what your child is interested in too as we can then ensure that their interests are incorporated into our planning.

### **Welcome!**

We have been very fortunate to welcome new members of staff to the nursery team this term who are all settling in brilliantly and already proving to be valuable, popular and extremely capable within their roles.

Kathryn Brown has joined us as Administrative/Finance Officer.

Dominika Mozol has joined us as Key Person to the Seal group in The Deep Blue Sea.

Maureen Morgan has joined us a Nursery Assistant working across the setting

Thank you for helping us to make them feel so welcome at Suffield Park Nursery.

### **Boxing Day Dip Success!**

Enormous thanks to the brave group of staff and parents who took part in the Boxing Day Dip to raise money for information books. A fantastic £245 was raised so thanks to those who have contributed through sponsorship. Congratulations and well done to Constance Smith who received a small prize for raising the most money.

Our next sponsored event will take place at the beginning of the Summer Term to raise money for the annual Summer Trip for the children moving up to 'big school' this year- details to follow.

## The Importance of Books and Reading- latest research and what we do

Sharing stories and information books is an important part of every child's development and is one of the most important things that you can do with your child to support them. Literacy in the early years includes talking about books, print in the environment, early mark making and writing, as well as sharing books and reading, (Pacey). Providing children with positive and exciting experiences related to books is a high priority within the Nursery in all rooms. "From the day our children are born, to the day they tell us to stop, we should read to them," says Michael Rosen (author of the popular story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt').

Recent research has found that the number of children being read to has dropped from 69% to 51% in the last five years (The Guardian, 2018)- we don't want this to be the case for our children here! Our conversations with parents/carers at our nursery tell us that many of the children are read to on a regular basis. We know that it can be tricky to fit yet another thing into our already busy day but by taking the precious fifteen minutes each day to spend time with your child enjoying a book together you really are setting them up for success.



'Story telling and reading activities can help develop language and literacy skills by supporting competence in communicating, speaking and listening, being read to and beginning to read and write.' (Bookstart).

Don't worry if you don't have lots of books at home, we would like to encourage you to borrow books from the Nursery, just chat to a member of staff if you are not sure which books would be most appropriate. We just ask that you borrow one book at a time.

Examples of what we do-

Focus books- In each of the nursery rooms there are focus books for each half term and sessional book sharing times. Please see the displays in each room and talk to your child about these books- some of the children have a favourite which they choose every time. We encourage this as we know that children love and need the repetition. Even though reading 'The Gruffalo' for the 56<sup>th</sup> time in a week may be a little frustrating for adults the benefits for the child are enormous, for example, when they know the text well enough to 'read' the story to you using the pictures and learned words/phrases!

Power of Reading- We are very excited to have introduced a new programme called 'Power of Reading' which is aimed at raising engagement and attainment in reading and writing with the children who will be going to school this year. The Infant School introduced this in September and it involves the use of carefully selected Power of Reading stories/texts and teaching sequences. So far this has been incredibly popular and the benefits are immediately apparent.

School Library Visits- We are very lucky to have a beautiful new school library on site which we visit regularly with the children. They love sharing books in this environment where they are surrounded by a fabulous range of texts.

Please find the tips for supporting your child attached to this newsletter.

## Mother's Day Celebrations

During the week beginning 25th March we will be celebrating Mother's Day in style! We will be holding Afternoon Tea style celebrations when mums, grandmas, nannys, aunts and family friends are invited join the children. The Deep Blue Sea (3-4 Year Old Room) sessions will be held in the school hall and The Rock Pool (Baby Room) and Coral Reef (2 Year Old Room) sessions will be held in The Lagoon (room downstairs). Please sign up on the sheets provided after half term.

Rock Pool and Coral Reef-

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March- 2pm

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March- 10.30am and 2pm

Deep Blue Sea-

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March- 10.30am

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March- 10.30m and 2pm



## IMPORTANT REQUESTS-

**Toys from home-** we have seen a significant increase in the number of toys that the children are bringing in from home. I'm sure you will appreciate that having these items at nursery can cause a number of problems, for example, complications regarding the teaching of sharing and turn-taking and loss/damage. Whilst we accept and actively encourage the presence of your child's comfort item we ask that other toys **do not** come to nursery.

**Clothing-** Please could we remind parents/carers of the importance of naming clothing- we know there is nothing more frustrating than losing belongings but it is far more likely that items are found/returned if they are named. Also, please ensure that you send your child to nursery in clothing appropriate to the weather- layers are best as the doors in the Coral Reef and Deep Blue Sea are open for the majority of the sessions regardless of the weather. Please help us to teach the children to return their belongings to their own peg when they are removed!

**Early Collection-** Please could we ask that you wait until the door is opened at the end of the nursery sessions to collect your child. The end of your child's session is an important time when they are involved in routines such as tidying up and coming together as a group to sing songs and I'm sure that you appreciate how busy staff are preparing the children for home-time. Obviously we know there are exceptions, for example if you have an appointment to attend and we will continue to be as flexible as possible in these circumstances.

## Nursery Sessions

As you will be aware the nursery is very busy and spaces are filling up fast for September. If you are planning to amend/increase your child's sessions please come into the office to speak to Hayley or Kathryn as soon as possible to avoid disappointment- we will do our best to help you.

Families where both parents (parent in single parent families) are working a minimum of 16 hours each week will be entitled to 30 hours (term time) or 23.75 hours (all year round) funded childcare from the term after their child turns 3 years old. If you would like information about how to apply please visit the 'Childcare Choices' website or speak to Hayley or Kathryn.

## Dates for your diary...

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup>-Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February- Half Term (Nursery open to ‘all year round children’ only)**

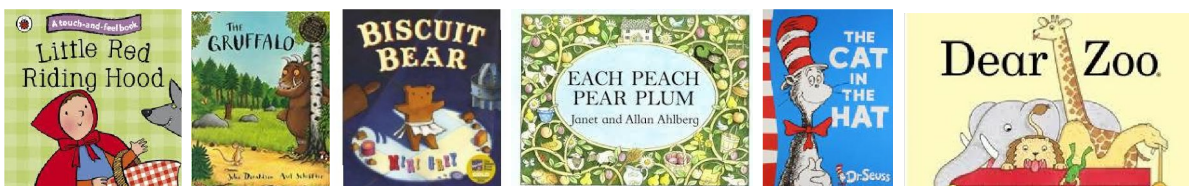
Information about holiday club availability and session costs available in the Nursery office.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February- Nursery re-opens for all children**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March- Tempest Photographers in school for group photographs**

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March- WORLD BOOK DAY**

**Your child is invited to dress up as their favourite book character- costumes do not need to be elaborate (we have plenty of dressing up clothes in the nursery if needed).**



**Week Beginning Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March- Mother's Day Celebrations**

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Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March- 10.30am and 2pm
- Deep Blue Sea-  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March- 10.30am  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March- 10.30m and 2pm

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March- 6-7pm- Nursery Parent's Evening**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March- last day of Spring Term**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April- Summer Term begins**



