



Little Pippins Newsletter – January 2017



Dear Parents / Carers

We hope you all had a good Christmas break. We would like to thank you for the lovely cards and gifts we received. We would also like to offer a warm welcome to those of you whose children are joining us this term.

Vicky, the Practice Manager, works Monday to Wednesday and I work Tuesday PM to Friday. Between the two of us, we cover the week and there is an 'open door policy' at the beginning of each session for brief conversations if you wish to speak to us. If you feel you want a little longer please arrange an appointment. You can also chat to your child's key person. Brenda, the Office Manager, works Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and will help with session bookings, fees and funding queries.

Please remember that we start promptly at 9:15am as we are keen to get the children settled as quickly as possible into their key groups for nurture time.

Curriculum

This term we will be using the theme **Toys and Games** to address the various areas within our pre-school curriculum. Please take a look at the Planning Web in the lobby and on our website <http://www.littlepippins.org.uk>. Each term there will be a core selection of story and information books chosen primarily for pleasure but also to support the ideas we are trying to develop in all areas of the revised EYFS curriculum. There is a list below in case you want to follow these up with trips to the library.

Communication and Language and Literacy We will continue to offer play-based activities that encourage children to recognise signs and words and to begin to mark-make for a purpose. These will include book making, creating stories and making signs for the pre-school. Older children will be learning phonics using the Jolly Phonics system. This term we will be looking at sounds of the sea using STAPIN and the fun actions that accompany each sound. As well as our regular home corner, there will be a toyshop to encourage communication and negotiating skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development We will continue to explore feelings and emotions using our puppets and will cover ideas about turn-taking, being kind and how does it feel when..? We will use puppets and stories to cover subjects such as hand washing and dressing skills and we will continue to spend time talking about taking care of our bodies, healthy food and the effect exercise has on us. During the pre-school year the children look at various cultures and celebrations. This term they will be learning about the Chinese New Year.

Mathematics Board games, dominoes and dice will be used to extend and reinforce counting, addition and subtraction skills and number recognition. We shall also use sand, water and rice to measure and investigate capacity. The puppet theatre and toyshop will provide opportunities for the children to develop their understanding of money exchange and begin to recognise some coins.

Understanding the World We shall be looking at Toys and Games for a variety of purposes. The children will be encouraged to think about and discuss how various toys work. For example, batteries, remote control, springs, push and pull, clockwork etc.

Physical Development The children will be going on a bear hunt in the garden to explore both movement and positional language - as well as to find a bear! As part of our Chinese New Year celebrations, they will have the opportunity to participate in a dragon dance and make their own music to dance to. During our focus music and movement time we will be working on spatial awareness, listening and responding to patterns in music and moving using different parts of the body. With the older children we will be focusing particularly on using a tripod pencil grip and refining scissor skills.

Expressive Art and Design The children will be able to make music using various instruments. We shall be making our own puppets, props, programmes and tickets for our puppet theatre. We shall be making wheeled vehicles with Duplo, Lego and Sticklebricks as part of our investigation into how things work and a Fishing game to support mathematical understanding.

Books

- The Enormous Turnip – Traditional tale
- The Little Red Hen – Traditional tale
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen
- This is the Bear – Sarah Hayes
- The Winter Bear – Ruth Craft & Eric Bledgrav

Parental Help

Thank you for all the help we received last term. We look forward to having parents in to help again this term. We appreciate that many of you work or have younger children to care for. However, if you are free to help either on a regular basis or just occasionally, we would be delighted to see you. We would also be happy to have the support of grandparents and carers. There is a list of dates on the whiteboard outside. If you are daunted by the idea of coming in for a whole session or not knowing what you will be asked to do, you can sign up for short periods and particular tasks. For example, coming in to wash the paint brushes or sharpen pencils would be a tremendous help. We are keen to create our own story bags so if you are, or you know someone who is, good at sewing or able to knit us some characters for the story bags please let us know.

Parent Questionnaire

A parent questionnaire will be distributed over the next few weeks. Your feedback is really important to us so please take the time to fill it out when you receive one. We will share the results with you and the committee as soon as we can.

Learning Journals - Tapestry online system

All observations are now recorded online. If you have forgotten your password please let us know and we can reset it for you. As your child's most important and prime educator we value your input. For example a note of the first time your child fastens his/her shoes, dresses unaided or rides his/her bike without stabilisers are all useful contributions. You can add this information via the online learning journal.

Reminders

Please drive very slowly in the car park and do not park in the disabled/emergency vehicle space.

Unfortunately it is that time of year when there are lots of bugs around. Please remember that children must be off 48 hours after their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. If your child has a high temperature or is unwell at pre-school we will call you to collect them

We try to go outside whatever the weather and, as it is particularly cold and wet at the moment, your child will need named wellies and warm coats. If your child comes into pre-school in boots, please send in some indoor shoes.

The fees for the spring term are now due and invoices have been put in the folders in the lobby. Our preferred methods of payment are Childcare Vouchers, internet banking and cash and invoices can be paid in full, monthly or termly. If you are having difficulty paying, please speak to Brenda at the earliest opportunity.

Box modelling/creative work

We would love any of the below items

- Kitchen roll tubes (not toilet rolls)
- Small boxes/cartons
- Clean milk bottle tops
- Bits of ribbon/string/wool/felt/lace
- Wrapping paper/tissue paper/wallpaper
- Christmas cards/wrapping paper
- Old calendars
- Diaries
- Note books
- Post its
- Envelopes
- Other unwanted items of stationery

Please note that all box modelling must be clean and nut free.

Kind regards

Amy & The Team