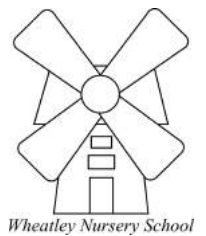


Wheatley Nursery School Newsletter

February/March 2023



Dates for diary

World Book Day 2nd March- come dressed in pj's (or dress up if you want to), and bring your favourite book

Parent's Evening: Tuesday 7th March

Easter Holidays start: Friday 31st March @ 12pm

Return to Nursery: Monday 17th April 2023

Spring Term 2

The children in nursery and Little Windmills have two group times each day with their key person. During these times the children are learning skills in early maths, phonics, personal social skills and developing skills in listening and attention. Here is some information about the importance of early phonics and how you can support these skills at home.

A focus on pre phonics

From a very early stage, children develop an awareness of the different sounds in our spoken language. They learn to use their voices to make contact and to let people know what they need and how they are feeling.

Children need lots of opportunities to talk with others as they develop and practise these skills. This helps to build their confidence and improves their ability to communicate with other people. This is a really important part of learning to socialise and will help the child feel confident when it comes time to make friends.

In order to make a good start to reading and writing, children need to be listened to and talked with. Everyday activities such as preparing meals, tidying up, putting shopping away and getting ready to go out offer the chance to talk to the child, explaining what you are doing. They hear the way language is put together into sentences for a purpose.

Books are a rich source of new words for the child – words you would not use in everyday conversations appear in books. Children need to have a wide stock of words (vocabulary) to understand the meaning of books – so read aloud and share books as often as you can. They will enjoy it and it will be so useful to them when they come across these words in their own reading, later on.



Nursery Update

We enjoyed making pancakes this week. The children read Mr Wolf's Pancakes by Jan Fearnley and we made a shopping list of the ingredients we needed for pancakes. They tasted delicious. We also had lots of fun with pancake races in the garden.



Ways you can support your child's listening and speaking skills:



Make time to listen to your child talking – as you meet them from their setting or school, as you walk, or travel home by car, in the supermarket as you shop, at meal times, bath times, bedtimes – anytime!

Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones – and really listen!

Show them you are interested in what s/he is talking about – look at your child, smile, nod your head, ask a question or make a response to show that you really have been listening.

Make a collection of different toy creatures e.g. a duck, a snake, an alien say the sound it might make as you play together e.g. quack-quack, sssssss, yuk-yuk encourage your child to copy you.

Listen at Home – switch off the TV and listen to the sounds both inside and outside home – can your child tell you what s/he heard, in the order in which s/he heard it?

Play-a-tune – and follow me! Make or buy some simple shakers, drums and beaters – play a simple tune and ask your child to copy. Have fun!

Use puppets and toys to make up stories or retell known ones. Record your child telling the story and playback to the

The importance of speech sounds

As children grow older they begin to understand more about the sounds of our language and they are able to join in with rhymes, songs and stories, sometimes clapping, stamping and skipping.

This is an important stage as the children's ears are learning to tune into all the different sounds around them. Playing with sounds and tuning the child's ears into sounds develops phonological awareness or the ability to discriminate between different sounds. Over time this will help the child develop an understanding that words are made up of different sounds (phonemes) and they will be able to hear the different sounds in a word. Gradually they will learn to match sounds to letters (graphemes). This is phonic knowledge. They use this knowledge when they are reading and writing



This term our focus is around alliteration. Here are some ideas for how you can support this at home.

Alliteration is a lot of fun to play around with; your child's name can be a good place to start e.g. Say Gurpreet gets the giggles, Milo makes music, Naheema's nose, Carl caught a cat, Jolly Jessie jumped, Tina is talking, encourage others to have a go e.g. May munches muffins

Our theme My World continues and we will be visiting the village again to buy bread from the bakery or heading to the Coop with shopping lists we have made. So far the children have really enjoyed their trips to the village, looking carefully at road signs and numbers in the environment as we walk along. We will also be making trips to the library where we will share stories together and borrow some books.



Our core book this term is The Three Little Pigs. We have set up a role play area where the 3 little pigs live with all the props we need to retell the story. The children are enjoying 'going to the theatre' and watching each other act out the story.

We decided to make a house with sticks and worked together to build our den. The children were worried that it would rain so we made our den waterproof just in case. We were soon involved in reenacting the story of the 3 little pigs and several wolves tried to blow down the den. They haven't succeeded so far!



Emphasise alliteration in songs and stories i.e. 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers'

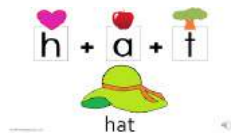
Play around with familiar songs to emphasise alliteration such as 'Old MacDonald had some sheep, shoes, shorts, with a sh,sh here and a sh sh there

Identify the odd one out e.g. cat, cup, boy, car

Make up little nonsense stories together using lots of alliteration
Collect items from the park, the garden and around the house that start with the same sound

When shopping, think about items you are buying and say 'A tall tin of tomatoes!' 'A lovely little lemon!' Encourage your child to do the same

Next term we'll move on to focus on oral blending and segmenting.



This is all oral (spoken). Children will not be expected to match the letter to the sound at this stage.

The emphasis is on helping children to hear the separate sounds in words and to create spoken sounds

Oral blending and segmenting is a later skill that will be important when it comes time to read and write.

Being able to hear the separate sounds within a word and then blend them back to understand that word is really important.

Blending – is a vital skill for reading. The separate sounds (phonemes) of the word are spoken aloud, in order, all through the word e.g. the adult would say c – a – t = cat.

Segmenting – is a vital skill for spelling. The whole word is spoken aloud, then broken up into its separate sounds (phonemes) in order, all through the word . For example the adult would say cat = c – a – t

When helping your child with their sounds please say the 'pure' sounds and do not add 'uh' onto sounds for example say 't' as in tiger and not 'tuh'.

We are looking forward to seeing you at parents/carers meetings to discuss your child's strengths and next steps.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns do feel free to catch me then, alternatively you can email me on WNShead@johnwatsonschool.org

Natalie

Headteacher

Windmills Breakfast Club



Little Windmills update

We are planning more trips to the Wild woods as our last visit was such a fantastic outside learning experience! The children listened to the story of The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson. We were keen to explore the woods to find the characters from the story and tick them off on our tick sheets.



We are enjoying retelling the story of 'The 3 little pigs'. We have looked carefully at what we might use to build houses and have created our own structures. We had great fun trying to blow them down!!

Breakfast care opens from 8am until nursery starts at 9am. The children have breakfast and then can play in the nursery.

If you want any more information or to book sessions please email wheatleynurseryschool@johnwatsonschool.org

Windmills Wraparound

Provision	Session Times	Cost
Nursery School 3-5 yr olds	9:00 - 12:00, 12:00 - 15:00	£16.00
Little Windmills 2 Yr olds	9:00 - 12:00, 12:00 - 15:00	£17.00
Breakfast Club 2-5 yr olds	8:00 - 9:00	£5.00
Extra session	Add £2.00	

After School Club

We are hoping to be able to get the after school club up and running from the 17th April 2023. We are looking for Level 3 and Level 2 qualified staff. The hours would be 2.45- 5.45pm Monday to Friday. If you are interested please email Anna in the office and she will send out an application form.

Snack Time

Healthy snacks are the best!

This year we will be having a shared snack. We are asking parents and carers to bring in donations of fruit, vegetables, crackers, cheese etc to share with their key group, each week. The children will be helping to prepare the snack and will be pouring their own water and milk. This all helps with fine motor development, self regulation and independence. We ask parents to avoid sending in any foods containing **nuts or sesame seeds** in order to maintain a safe environment for children with allergies. Please remember that small fruits such as grapes need cutting in order to avoid choking.

Oral Health & A Healthy Start



Here is a video for you to watch about a Healthy Start.
<https://youtu.be/rwf7yjppQvU>. Please visit the website for more information <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/> please speak to Laura in the nursery if you require some help or more information.



Class Dojo and Tapestry

We use the class dojo app to communicate about the experiences your child/ren have had during the week. We also use it to give quick messages. Important information will be communicated through parentmail.

Tapestry is an online learning journey. Throughout your child's time at Wheatley Nursery School, your child's key person will be recording their wow moments, key shifts in their learning and any other relevant observations. These will be shared with you regularly and we really appreciate it if you could share any experiences they have had at home to form their learning journey. These observations will be the key ones as we expect the staff to be interacting with the children and scaffolding their learning not to be behind an iPad.

Sickness reminder:

Children with sickness and diarrhoea should not come back to Nursery until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. We have had a few cases of chickenpox recently - please ensure your child only returns to Nursery once all the spots have scabbed over, this takes at least 5 days.

Our core book this term is The Three Little Pigs

Themes for this term are:

- Pancake party time
- Books, glorious books
- Let's get sporty for Sport Relief
- Spring has sprung
- People who help us
- Eggsellent Easter



Contact: 01865 452 725 or

wheatlynurseryschool@johnwatsonschool.org

www.wheatlynurseryschool.org

We enjoyed the rhyme 'This little piggy went to market' We thought it would be fun to paint our own little pink pigs, so we mixed red and white paint and noticed that we had made pink!

The children laughed as we painted our feet and went 'weeee all the way home'



Staff at Wheatley Nursery School

Head Teacher - Natalie Wilson

School Business Manager: Amy Wilkinson

Teacher - Judy Whittingham

Special Educational Needs Coordinator- Natalie Wilson

Early Years Support Workers

Laura Ashmore

Beth Ind

Anna Brand

Louise Noble (Little Windmills)

Joanne Nelms (Little Windmills)

Teaching Assistants

Sharon Butterfield

Lucy Sheldon -Moncur (Little Windmills)

Sharon Slatter

Kayleigh Collins

Apprentice - Daisy Pinkney

Music Teacher - Rachel Cave

Administrator - Anna Harries

Wheatley Nursery School Website:

www.wheatlynurseryschool.org.

Our Facebook Page is working well, please like us by searching Wheatley Nursery School.

