

Nursery Newsletter 11 - Friday 22nd November 2019

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another week! Christmas is creeping ever closer and we have started to practise for our fabulous performance. You may already have heard the children singing some of the songs at home- next week we hope to let you know about roles and costumes!

This week has seen the children finishing off their Talk for Writing fiction unit for The Very Hungry Caterpillar. They started the week off by thinking of their own Very Hungry creature, before going on to think of an opening, a middle and an ending for their story. We have had some fantastic ideas, including aliens, dragons and nasty trolls getting into all sorts of situations! We certainly have a very imaginative group of children who have really embraced this activity and it is fantastic to hear them independently using story vocabulary in their storytelling.

The children had lots of fun exploring modelling clay this week as they used it with pine cones to create hedgehogs. Outside, they used the crates and planks to create a bridge to 'trip trap' over, following a story time session with the Three Billy Goats Gruff! The children also continued to enjoy our outdoor kitchen as they chopped and sliced fruit up for the caterpillar- after all, he was very hungry!

Now to find out where Birdie will go this weekend. As always, he has been watching carefully all week for a Little Harrier that has been demonstrating respect towards others, the environment and our resources. This week, Birdie noticed that Atlas has ticked all of those boxes. He has shown fabulous sharing skills, been a great help at tidy up time and is always keen to clean up our outdoor area and fill up the fruit bin for recycling. A definite Eco Harrier in the making. Well done, Atlas. Birdie is really looking forward to spending time with you and your family!

Just a quick reminder about hats, scarves and gloves. The children will enjoy outdoor play every day but it does get very chilly in our garden so please make sure your child comes fully prepared to wrap up and join in the fun. Can we also just remind you to ensure that you send spare clothing in your child's bag just in case of toileting/wet play mishaps, replacing any school items that we may have needed to use to ensure your child is comfortable and able to return to play as soon as possible. Thank you.

Finally, Mrs Blackshaw and Mrs Buckley just wanted to add how proud we are of all of our Little Harriers. We have had both a visit from the Department of Education and open events for new parents this week and, on both occasions, the feedback about the children's behaviour and the evidence of their learning on display was wonderful. Thank you so much Little Harriers for all of your hard work and enthusiasm- and thank you to all of your grown ups for all of their support too!

Wishing you all a fabulous weekend,

Mrs Blackshaw and Mrs Buckley

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Message from Mrs Hopkins:

Department for Education (Dfe) visit: Yesterday was our visit from the Dfe and the Education Expert, Mr Bulman. It went very well indeed with him commenting on what a pleasure it was to visit our school and what a delight the children were - we couldn't agree more! My favourite moment was when I saw Wills from Year 1 chatting to Mr Bulman and afterwards Wills came and told me he'd told the man all about their lives - that did make me chuckle! Mr Bulman was very happy with the provision the children are getting. It will take a few weeks before we receive the report and as previously mentioned, I am unfortunately unable to share this with you as it's not allowed to be made a public document. As Mr Bulman was satisfied with where the school is at, he won't visit again but I will receive a phone call in the Summer Term for him to touch base as to how things are going in general and to follow up on a few actions that are on our School Development Plan. So our next external visit will be our first Ofsted inspection next academic year (2020-2021) and it is likely to be in the Summer Term but we won't know until we get the phone call the day before the visit. In the meantime, our Deputy Director of Education, Mr Bhoola, will be visiting regularly to ensure the quality of education remains at the high standard it currently is at. Thank you to all the parents that spoke to Mr Bulman and said such complimentary things about us and what we are doing. As I always say, you and the children are our best advocates so it means the most to us when you give this feedback. Thank you so much. I would also like to publically thank the staff for all their hard work in getting ready for the visit. There is a lot of pressure for them at times like this. Everyone worked incredibly hard ensuring the school looked its best and showed the great provision the children. We are very fortunate to have such talented and dedicated staff.

