

Nursery Weekly News

19.7.21



We hope you have had a good weekend. We are finding it hard to believe this is our last week together! We are planning to give the children as much choice as possible about what they would like to do this week and provide as many fun activities as we can. We are hoping the weather will be kind and we can continue to have lots of fun water play and giant construction and games outside.

Last week the children were starting to think about Summer holidays and all the things associated with it. Although holidays this year might not be what we were all hoping we talked about school holidays and all the kinds of things we might do, as well as going on journeys. We will continue with that theme this week and will play an interactive game of summer 'eye spy,' and as drawing has been very popular lately, perhaps draw some summer pictures.

It is a shame that Chicken pox managed to rear its head last week. It is probably inevitable that childhood illnesses will do the rounds again. Chicken pox can be a difficult illness to spot initially and can be different in different children. Unfortunately, it is very contagious, and children are contagious two days before the spots come out. It can take 10-12 days after exposure for the spots to come out so please keep an eye out. Some children show no other symptoms, some children do feel unwell and can become increasingly so as the illness progresses. Children remain infectious until all the spots have all crusted over, usually 5 days after they first appeared, although some children can have several waves. Here is the link to the NHS website for more information. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

The children seem much more settled about changes ahead and I'm sure everyone will have a very successful transition to school. This week we have included on the reverse a few tips for all those starting school in September.

As well as saying fond farewells to those moving on to school, we are delighted that in September we will be welcoming back our children who started in the Spring. If these children need more uniform there are second-hand polo shirts, sweatshirts, and fleeces available at Nursery. We would be very grateful for any donations of second-hand uniform from the children moving on. We will send home wellies on Wednesday. Don't forget to bring wellies back to school in September, both for Nursery children and Reception. Please remember to clearly name new uniform and wellies.

Thank you so much for all your support and understanding with covid related restrictions and issues. We think the children have had a really good year, coping well with another strange year and managing to make a lot of progress both in their learning and in their social and emotional development. We do our best to give the children a good start to their learning journey, but we couldn't succeed without all the wonderful help and support from parents. Thank you so much for a great year. We feel our parents know what is important for their children and hope that any advice we have given over the year has contributed to that in a positive way.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the time we have spent with your children. *You all have very special, very unique and very wonderful children.* We have enjoyed every minute of being with them, teaching them and learning from them.

We hope that the children's time at Nursery has not only helped them develop readiness for school, but also given them some magical childhood moments, and played a small part in making them the wonderful little people they are.

Have a fantastic fun-filled summer together!

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy



Top-tips for getting prepared for school (for all those starting school in September)

Tip 1: Read – Don't forget visits to the library. Keep up sharing books over the holidays it's a wonderful way to develop talk and ideas.



Tip 2: Make sure your child gets enough sleep – Children need their rest to perform well at school and cope with lots of new learning. Bedtimes might not be so strict over the summer, but it is worth starting to reset body clocks a fortnight before school starts. Start moving bedtime forward a bit each night and have more structured set meal times that will match those the children will have when they are at school.

Tip 3: Emphasise the positive – Mention school positively but resist the temptation to over-hype 'big school'. It's better to play it down and give your child confidence that they will cope well and enjoy it. As children have been to Nursery, you can paint big school as just a small step up. Encourage children to continue developing their skills and independence but avoid telling them they will struggle at school if they don't know how to do a particular task. Keep the mood positive.



Tip 4: Don't wear them out! - All children need down time; plenty of self-directed play, and unstructured time. When children start school, they may be tired and unable to cope with extracurricular activities for a while. Children will start to see that school becomes a main priority.

Tip 5: Practise - Many children can now write their name correctly, can count a group of objects, know their numbers to 10 or 20, can hear initial sounds, recognise letters and know basic shapes and colours. This will make things easier for them and it's worth keeping up those skills. However, many children begin school still not mastering these skills, and will proceed quite happily and successfully to do so when ready. Children develop at different rates in different areas, so don't worry, but continue to encourage skills with fun activities.



Tip 6: Preparation – Think about all the practical things like uniform, book bags, PE kit etc well in advance so that the start of school is as stress free as possible. Brainstorm lunch ideas with your child if they will have a lunchbox and talk about hot dinners. Talk through the lunch menu for the first week of school together. Making sure your child has everything they need will really help them throughout the year. Use the website and read newsletters to keep yourself informed. It helps you to feel more relaxed and avoid guilt ridden moments!

