

Peter Rabbit Nursery Newsletter: Nov 2023

Autumn Term

We have been very busy this term looking at the changes autumn has brought to our park. We have noticed that our tree outside nursery turned a beautiful shade of red and has now lost all its leaves. The younger children have been working really hard on their attention and listening skills during our bucket time session. We are also continuing to focus on their phase 1 phonics skills, please see below for more information on what phase 1 covers.

Staff

We are very excited to be welcoming Sophie Turner to our staffing team from January. Sophie has two children, one at George Abbott and one at Burpham Primary. She is a qualified primary school teacher and has worked mainly in Year 1 and Reception. Sophie is looking forward to getting back into the classroom and working with the children. She brings a wealth of experience and knowledge with her and she will be a great addition to our team.

Phonics

Phase 1 of Letters and Sounds concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Phase 1 is divided into seven aspects. Each aspect contains three strands: Tuning in to sounds (auditory discrimination), Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing) and Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension).

It is intended that each of the first six aspects should be dipped into, rather than going through them in any order, with a balance of activities. Aspect 7 will usually come later, when children have had plenty of opportunity to develop their sound discrimination skills.

Aspect 1 – General sound discrimination – environmental

The aim of this aspect is to raise children's awareness of the sounds around them and to develop their listening skills. Activities we may do at nursery include going on a listening walk, drumming on different items outside and comparing the sounds, playing a sounds lotto game and making shakers.

Aspect 2 – General sound discrimination – instrumental sounds

This aspect aims to develop children's awareness of sounds made by various instruments and noise makers. Activities include comparing and matching sound makers, playing instruments alongside a story and making loud and quiet sounds.

Aspect 3 – General sound discrimination – body percussion

The aim of this aspect is to develop children's awareness of sounds and rhythms. Activities include singing songs and action rhymes, listening to music and developing a sounds vocabulary.

Aspect 4 – Rhythm and rhyme

This aspect aims to develop children's appreciation and experiences of rhythm and rhyme in speech. Activities include rhyming stories, rhyming bingo, clapping out the syllables in words and odd one out.

Aspect 5 – Alliteration

The focus is on initial sounds of words, with activities including I-Spy type games and matching objects which begin with the same sound.

Aspect 6 – Voice sounds

The aim is to distinguish between different vocal sounds and to begin oral blending and segmenting. Activities include Metal Mike, where children feed pictures of objects into a toy robot's mouth and the teacher sounds out the name of the object in a robot voice – /c/-/u/-/p/ cup, with the children joining in.

Aspect 7 – Oral blending and segmenting

In this aspect, the main aim is to develop oral blending and segmenting skills. To practise oral blending, we might say some sounds, such as /c/-/u/-/p/ and see whether your child can pick out a cup from a group of objects. For segmenting practise, we might hold up an object such as a sock and ask the children which sounds they can hear in the word sock.

We will be holding a stay and play session later in the year so you can see how we teach phonics in nursery. It is so important that children are confident in the phase 1 aspects before moving on to phase 2 which starts in Reception.

A few requests:

Please could children wear slip on shoes to nursery, laces are challenging for the children and its difficult when we have a number children that need support with this.

If your child is in nappies it would be helpful to have a puddle suit in their bag that we can pop on them when its wet. We have waterproof trousers for the older children which are better when they are independent using the toilet.

Please ensure all items (including clothes) are clearly labelled.

Thank you to those of you who have completed the survey. I will keep this open until the end of term and then share the results with you all.

Keyworkers

All the children have keyworkers that they are allocated when the first start at the nursery. This is a statutory role set by the DfE. We have had a very slight shuffle around of our key children so please check the board in the entrance to see who your child's keyworker is.

However all staff work with all children so please feel free to speak to any of us regarding your child.

Nativity- 15/12/23

We would like to welcome you to our nursery Nativity on Friday 15th December at 11am.

If your child usually attends on a Friday morning then please bring them in at the usual time. If your child does not usually attend on a Friday morning please can you bring them in at 10.30am. Please ensure your child has used the toilet prior to coming in to nursery.

We will be supplying costumes for the children and hopefully we will have a visit from Father Christmas.

Please note there will be no afternoon session on this day and all children will go home with their parents.

Christmas Jumper Day- 7/12/23

This year we will be participating in Save The Children's Christmas Jumper Day. The official date is Thursday 7th December. However if your child does not attend on a Thursday then please feel free to choose another day that week to wear a Christmas jumper.

Donations can be made via the link below:

<https://donate.justgiving.com/donation-amount?uri=aHR0cHM6Ly9kb25hdGUtYXBP1c3RnaXZpbmcuY29tL2FwaS9kb25hdGlvbnMvYjFIZmM1ZjFkM2U2NDAXZjhkNTU1MjdiZTU1YTm5YTA/aXNDaGVja291dEFwaT10cnVl>

There is absolutely no expectation to donate.

Party Days

- **Wednesday 13th December**
- **Thursday 14th December**

This year we will be holding two party days so most of the children can attend. We are aware that we have a handful of children that do not attend on either of these days. If you would like your child to attend the a party please email as soon as possible to let us know and we will try and accommodate. Our party session will be between 11am and 12pm on each of these days.