



Newsletter Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parent and carers,

We have had a lovely week settling into new routines and making the most of the sunny weather we are having. Our learning has been linked to 'All About Me' with lots of activities about our bodies, families and home. The children have drawn their families, designed hair styles, got messy mark making in flour and sand, used shaving foam to build towers, got smelly with herbs and on Thursday created lots of bubbles when washing the ice hands. On Wednesday the children drew around their hands and feet and used cubes to measure their length. This is the phase before using cms to form an understanding that an amount of something represents a length. E.g. my hand is 4 cubes long/my hand is 7cm long. Our maths table has changed each day with plenty of number recognition and counting out objects, to sorting colours and using problem solving to build houses for figures and cars.

Each day we split the children into small groups for carpet time. It's a great opportunity to come together and sing, read stories and learn new skills. It's an important time for the children to learn to sit, listen, wait their turn, join in and develop confidence to speak in front of others. On a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, small groups have a Spanish lesson. This term we are focussing on our older children and this week they have been learning colours. At carpet time the children have been singing our 'Hello' song, ask your children if they can sing it to you!

Please follow our Instagram and Facebook pages to see photos of the activities we do each day, so you can chat them through with your children. @emchildrensworkshop

Phonics

We follow '[Letters and Sounds](#)' and mainly focus on Phase 1 which is the important foundation for the rest of the phases which introduce letter sounds. Phase 1 teaches children to listen out for sounds, identify different sounds, recognise rhyming and rhymes, oral blending and segmenting and using your voice to make sounds. For example, this week, the children clapped out the syllables in names and enjoyed singing repetitive rhymes. During our morning activities we provide opportunities for phase 1 as well as more explicit teacher led activities and a focus activity during carpet time. From next week we will start Phase 2 alongside Phase 1, with the older children. We will start with the letter sound 'sssss'.

Packed Lunches

Please ensure grapes/olives/cherry tomatoes /blueberries are cut up and sausages are cut up long ways to avoid a choking hazard. Please place lunch boxes on the trolley outside and water bottles in the box.

IMPORTANT: Please ensure the child's name is clearly visible on the outside of the lunchbox/bag.



Staff have been adding some lovely photos to Tapestry. Please make sure you bring back your permission forms and activate your account. There are quite a few where you've been set up, but you haven't followed the link in your email to complete the registration.

Childminders/Nannies

If your child is collected by a childminder or nanny, please take a permission form from the main door. It asks for days, contact details and permission to hand over information.

Queueing

We apologise that some mornings the queues have been taking along time. They have been getting quicker as the children become more settled. We are now getting most children in by 9:10am. If your child is particularly anxious and waiting a long time isn't helping, I would advise coming about 9:10am to avoid the busy part. Please can I ask that you and your childminders/nannies – **DO NOT to push to the front!** Thank you

Nappies

Please please please please – can we ask that parents send their children to preschool and provide in their bags, **nappies with tabs** and NOT PULL UPS!! It is taken staff a long time to change pull up style nappies as they have to completely undress the bottom half of the children each time. Think of us in the winter months with lots of layers and 15 nappies to change!

Thank you so much.