



Nursery Spring Term Newsletter



This newsletter is to tell you all about what will be happening during the Spring Term in Lion Cubs Nursery class! The Nursery term have made a flying start and should all be very proud of their achievements this term, we are certainly very proud of them! We will be welcoming four new friends after Christmas and look forward to seeing new friendships blossom.

Please make sure you check our web page to see some photographs of the activities and learning opportunities that we have taken part in this half term. This can be found at:

www.maidstoneinfants.org



Theme

Our new theme for the Spring term is Julia Donaldson. Julia Donaldson is a very popular children's author who has written stories such as The Gruffalo, Stick Man and The Smartest Giant in Town. We will be immersing ourselves in a story curriculum, reading and exploring a new story each week. Through these stories we will have opportunities to take part in activities involving reading, writing, number, cooking, measuring, design and technology....the list goes on!

Over the Christmas holidays you can find songs, games and activities based on the book 'The Gruffalo' at <http://www.gruffalo.com/>

You can also read some Julia Donaldson books together at home. These are widely available in book shops or in the local library. There are even DVD versions of The Gruffalo, The Gruffalo's Child and Stick Man if you would like to watch these together during the holidays! If you would like to, then please complete a book review sheet (attached) with your child, talking to them about the story you have shared. These will be displayed in Nursery.



Snack

We will continue to ask for a donation of 50p per week towards our Nursery snack. Your donations allow us to provide a range of snacks to supplement the free fruit and milk received by the school. We try to ensure the children have the opportunity to try a range of tastes, textures and have opportunities to be involved in making their own snack such as buttering toast or crackers. We also use this money to purchase ingredients for cooking activities. Donations can be given to any member of nursery staff.

Thank you very much for your donations this half term, they are much appreciated.



PE



Our PE sessions will continue to take place on a Wednesday in the school hall. Please ensure that your child comes dressed in appropriate clothing and footwear eg: leggings or jogging bottoms and

trainers/plimsolls. Please also ensure that earrings are removed before coming to Nursery. We look forward to exploring the large apparatus in the Spring Term.



We have made a flying start in our phonics sessions! So far, we have learnt the sounds s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d. Over the half term you can practise these sounds using flash cards, games such as 'eye spy' and by making collections of objects that start with the same sound. For example an 's' collection could contain a sandwich, sweets, sand, socks and sausages!

It is really important that when pronouncing each sound we use the 'purest' sound possible, rather than adding an 'u' sound. For example the 's' sound should be pronounced 'sssss' rather than 'su.'

For the correct pronunciation of the phonic sounds please see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8>

For the jolly phonics songs used to reinforce the sounds please see:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeSRggRoz_U

For games and activities using letters and sounds please see

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

At home, you could also try writing the letter sounds using finger paints, in shaving foam spread on a tray, in the sand on the beach or with a pencil and paper.

After half term we will continue to learn a sound a week - please check the phonics board on our Nursery door to see our sound of the week!



Thank you all for coming to see the Nursery children perform their Nativity. It was lovely to see so many families in attendance. We enjoyed the chance to chat afterwards over a mince pie or two!

We will be inviting you in for a Stay and Play session next half term where you will have the opportunity to look at your child's Learning Journey folder.

We love to see your 'News from Home' slips, you are always welcome to take these from the entrance area and fill them in. All slips are displayed on our WOW board.

Please remember that we are always happy to listen and help should you have any questions or concerns.

All that's left to say is Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Mrs Veal and Mrs Murton