



Little Pippins Newsletter –April 2016

Dear Parents,

We hope you have had a wonderful break and the children are ready for a long but exciting term.

We shall be using the theme **Animals** to address the various areas within our pre-school curriculum during this term. Please take a look at the *Planning Web* in the lobby and on our website <http://www.littlepippins.org.uk/> Each term there will be a core selection of story and information books chosen primarily for pleasure but also to support the concepts we are trying to develop in all areas of the revised EYFS curriculum. There is a list below in case you want to follow these up with trips to the library.

Week 1 – The Hungry Caterpillar

We have our very own hungry caterpillars that we are going to watch turn into butterflies and help the children learn about life cycles, looking after animals and mini beasts (UW). The children will also be learning the days of the week and tasting different foods just like the hungry caterpillar (L & UW).

Week 2 – Rosie’s Walk

We will be using the book *Rosie’s Walk* to reinforce the concept of sequencing and working from left to right with text (L). It will also provide an excellent opportunity for the children to work on positional language and to develop their ‘manoeuvring’ skills as we re-enact the story in the garden (P). We will use farmyard animals to enable the children to sort into sets and look at different attributes (M).

Week 3 – The Bad Tempered Ladybird

The Bad Tempered Ladybird will be used as a humorous way of looking at the way we talk to other people and think about different feelings (PSE). We shall use ladybirds to help the children develop both quantity recognition, in the form of spots (M). The children will also hunt for their very own bugs in the garden (P & UW).

Week 4 – Dear Zoo

We shall be looking at colour and pattern and how these help to provide camouflage for animals (UW). It will provide the children with the opportunity to develop their own patterns with paint, threading beads and mark-making (M). We also hope to spend some time this week weaving with natural materials including branches and feathers (EA&D). We will be making animal masks that we can use on the Harwell Feast Float that has the theme Dear Zoo this year. We will be looking at ‘lift the flap’ books, how they work and making our own... (EA & L)

Week 5- Hickory Dickory Dock

The children will learn the nursery rhyme to help them think about time, what time they get up, have lunch and go to bed (PSE, UW & M) They will also make their own watches and clocks (EA & M). The children will have sequencing puzzles that look at how they get dressed (PSE, P & M)

Week 6 – The Great Pet Sale

Our focus book will be *The Great Pet Sale* (L) and children will be encouraged to talk about pets and what we need to do to care for them (UW). The children will also have the opportunity to talk about their own pets - or ones they would like to have! (C&L) The children will be able to make their own signs for the shop and look at the money they use in the shop (L, P & M)

Week 7 – Pixies and Fairies

Children will be encouraged to use their imagination to produce fantasy creatures in the form of drawings, painting and imaginative play (EA&D). Our mathematical focus this week will be shapes and positional language and the children will use shapes to create their own fantasy land (M & EA).

Drink bottles

Please remember to take them home at the end of the day and replenish with fresh water.

Parental help

Please sign up and come in when you can (see the sheet on the whiteboard by the entrance). We are also keen to have parent helpers for Forest School on Tuesday afternoons.

Outside activities

When the weather gets nicer we will provide a high factor 'sensitive skin' sun protection lotion which will be applied to children when they go in the garden. (Please contribute £1 for this). We ask parents to apply sun lotion before the start of the session and we will top up during the day. We also have high quality UV protective sun hats that the children will wear in the garden. There is no need to supply a sun hat. As the weather gets warmer please make sure your children wear sensible shoes that they are able to run about in.

Mud Kitchen – Children will be able to make and mix their own mud pies and other creations. They will wear wellies and our waterproof clothing.

Phonics

This term the children will be looking at 'i', 'n', 'c,k', 'e' 'h' and 'r' The children will use the sound tubs, learn the actions and the songs that go with the sounds.

Learning Journals

The younger children have moved over to our online learning journal system. Parents will receive further information about this soon as well as their login details.

School leavers are still using the paper files that can be found above the radiator by the kitchen you will find your child's individual *Learning Journal* which is compiled by your child's key person in collaboration with you and your child. As your child's most important and prime educator we value your input. For example a note of the first time your child fastens his/her shoes, dresses unaided or rides his/her bike without stabilisers are all useful contributions. Please feel free to access these journals at any time whilst respecting the privacy of other children's *Learning Journals*. There is a pocket on the display board above the *Learning Journals* for your contributions. You may also email contributions to manager.littlepippins@btinternet.com

Snacks

Thank you for your contributions for snack. We still have lots of crackers and breadsticks so we would be grateful for fruit, vegetables, rice cakes and any gluten free snacks.

Dates for your diary...

Meet the Staff and Committee – May -date to be arranged

Childrens photos 11th May – more information to follow

Pre-school Outing – Beale Park Monday 18th July (no Pippins session as everyone will be on the trip)

Parents Evening for leavers – Wednesday 6th July

Sports Day

- For the younger children who are not leaving *Little Pippins* at the end of this academic year - Friday July 15th 2pm
- For the older children who are leaving to attend primary school – Tuesday 19th July 2pm (inc. Leaver's Ceremony)

Please save the following for us to recycle...

Mark-making

- Old calendars
- Diaries
- Note books
- Post its
- Envelopes

- Other unwanted items of stationary

Weaving

- Ribbons
- Gift wrap ribbon
- Feathers
- Thick wool
- Strips of brightly coloured fabric

We would also be grateful for any

- Rice
- Gluten free pasta
- Gluten free flour

Books and stories

Fiction

The Very Hungry Caterpillar - Eric Carle
The Bad-Tempered Ladybird - Eric Carle
Dear Zoo – Rod Campbell
Hairy McLairy - Lynley Dodd
The Great Pet Sale - Mick Inkpen
Rosie's Walk – Pat Hutchins

Traditional Tales

The Ugly Duckling
George and the Dragon
Hickory Dickory Dock

Vicky, Amy and the team

Curriculum Key:

C&L: Communication and Language, PSE: Personal, Social and Emotional, P: Physical, L: Literacy, M: Mathematics, UW: Understanding the World, EA: Expressive Arts and Design