

Friday 13 November 2020

Dear Parents

Children in Need

Greeting the children at the front of the school today has brought so much joy to me. The children were excited to be wearing their pyjamas and were so proud to show me all their different designs.

At what is such a difficult time for us all, it is so heart-warming to see everyone pulling together for such a worthy cause. The donations have been flooding in and I look forward to sharing the total amount raised with you next week.

The children have been immersed in all sorts of bear related activities today. I look forward to sharing a special edition newsletter with you next week to show you some of what they have created.

Prospective Parents

As we are unable to welcome visitors to school at the present time, I have been spending quite some time on Zoom this week meeting prospective parents. Although quite different from physically showing the parents round Broadhurst, I still find it very natural and easy to speak so positively about Broadhurst and to share my pride in our school, which is truly unique. We are now meeting parents who are looking to join us in September 2022 and receiving enquiries for September 2023; time certainly keeps moving on.

Assessments

Assessments have continued this week for some of our full day children. I hope that they have enjoyed their visits and that you will receive some positive feedback from the schools very soon.

I would like to please remind you of the importance of sharing any assessment dates you have with the School office. Equally, we are always keen to hear of the outcome of the assessments. This will help us to support you and the children as we work through this process. We would be grateful to be informed of any offers you are given, even if you are not intending to accept them.

Please do remember that I am available to speak with any parents that would find it useful. I am happy for this to be two or three minutes quietly outside at drop off or by appointment should you prefer.

I wish you all a lovely weekend. We look forward to seeing the children again on Monday.

Best wishes

Mrs Sylvester

Curriculum News from Miss Belzer

Verbal Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning involves the ability to problem solve and requires a combination of advanced language and thinking skills. The ability to predict sequences and understand basic cause and effect are also key aspects of this skill.

As children progress with their language development, they develop the ability to:

- understand and follow two key word instructions
- understand and use basic past tense
- relate items which go together e.g. knife and fork
- relate items together in category sets e.g. things we can eat
- recognise and explain similarities and differences between items
- answer 'what' 'who' & 'where' questions
- describe a scene in a picture

Once these skills are in place, children may be introduced to higher order language and thinking skills which allows them to expand their vocabulary. These skills include:

- Following longer spoken instructions & directions to develop their auditory memory ability
- Applying the language of sequence i.e. words such as first, then, next, at the end, last, before, after
- Understanding logical sequence and learning to predict the next step
- Justifying predictions by answering 'why' questions
- Recalling and retelling events or familiar stories
- Using their knowledge of cause and effect, routine and previous experience to say what might happen next
- Making and explaining links between things when comparing items
- Developing emotional vocabulary, understanding others and making decisions about how someone else may think or feel in a given situation
- Developing inferencing and problem solving skills by answering 'how' questions

Miss Belzer

Diary Dates:

Nursery Rhyme Week

16-20 November

Christmas Parties for Children

Wednesday 9 December

TERM DATES

Term Ends:

Thursday 10 December

Spring Term Starts:

Tuesday 5 January



Class 1 News

Class 1 have had a very busy and fun week. The children have been exploring the celebration of Diwali by making their very own beautiful Diva tealights to take home and looking at pictures of colourful rangoli patterns. We have also been developing our fine motor skills with a Diva tealight craft. Today, we had a brilliant day celebrating Children in Need with a variety of fun activities. We painted our own royal blue Broadhurst bears and played games including a treasure hunt for Pudsey. We thoroughly enjoyed wearing our pyjamas to school and seeing each other's outfits.

As part of our ongoing physical development and growing independence, Class 1 have been practising zipping and unzipping their coats, as well as putting them on by 'lifting and flicking.' We have also begun to hang up our coats by ourselves after coming back from the garden, as well as at arrival time. Miss Roisin and Miss Jane are very proud of their efforts, perseverance and progress with this.

For Phonics, the children have been listening to stories with particular emphasis on rhyme and repeated refrains. The Three Little Pigs was a firm favourite, with lots of laughing at Miss Roisin's funny wolf and little pig voices. We also used three piglets from our small world farm and our phonics puppet Fred to re-enact the story. In the garden, we had fun role playing The Three Little Pigs.

Our focus this week in Maths has been to give a small amount of objects when asked. Class 1 have enjoyed doing this during carpet sessions with our Maths puppet Maisie. During Table Time and free play activities, we have all enjoyed counting using our much-loved penguins and bears. Another fun activity was 'Feeding Mr Monkey' 1, 2 or 3 bananas.

Next week, we are looking forward to Nursery Rhyme Week.

Miss Roisin

Class 1 Photo Gallery

