

Friday 29 January 2021

Dear Parents

Photo memories

Today, your child will bring home some photos to share with you from their first month back at school this year. We hope you will enjoy looking at these and taking the opportunity to develop your child's communication and language skills by asking them questions relating to them.

Open-ended questions have the following features and are a powerful tool for communication. They:

- Can not be answered with yes or no
- Do not have a right or wrong answer
- Encourage discussion rather than short answers
- Give control to the child
- Do not assume too much about the situation or activity you are questioning

We hope you enjoy sharing these memories over the weekend.

4+ Assessments

We would like to wish all the boys visiting UCS on Monday all the best. We look forward to hearing how they get on. We also have some children returning to South Hampstead for their second-round assessments and Channing assessments commencing on 8 February.

This year's process has certainly been unpredictable but we have already

secured some excellent offers from a variety of schools and we look forward to this continued success over the coming weeks. Please do remember to keep the school office informed.

Children's birthdays in school

We have had a flurry of birthdays this week and it has been lovely to celebrate these with the children during the school day. I have been asked by a number of parents what is or is not currently allowed in terms of our Covid measures.

If you would like, we would very much welcome birthday cake to share with the class. Individual cupcakes are the easiest but we can also cut up a whole cake to share out with the class if this is preferable to you. We do ask that cakes are shop bought and do not contain nuts.

With the intention to be fair to all and to manage the children's expectations, we would appreciate keeping the contributions from parents to just a celebratory cake or cakes. The teachers will ensure that the children are made to feel special on their day.



Best wishes
Mrs Sylvester

Curriculum News from Miss Belzer



Questioning is a difficult skill as it requires a child to understand what is being asked, process the question, form an answer, and speak that answer. If a child is asking a question, it requires formulation of the question with all of the words in the correct order. When asking your child questions, start with simple questions starting with 'where' or 'what' before introducing more complex questions, such as, 'when' or 'how,' which involve higher order thinking and verbal skills.

The Mastery of Question Skills

1-2 Years

Answers simple 'where' or 'what' questions such as "where is the ball?" or "what is this?"

Answers yes/no questions, possibly with a head nod or shake

Starts to use question words, beginning with 'what'

2-3 Years

Answers questions using words including, 'where,' 'what,' 'who' or 'can you'

Asks questions using 'where' or 'what'

3-4 Years

Answers more complex questions including 'who,' 'why,' 'where' and 'how'

Answers questions involving two parts, such as, "if it starts raining, what do you do?"

Uses question words including, 'what,' 'where,' 'when,' 'how,' 'whose' and 'is'

4 Years

Asks questions using the correct grammatical structure such as 'do you want to,' 'are we going to' or 'can you'

Miss Belzer

Diary Dates:

Term Dates:

Half Term:

Monday 15 February-
Friday 19 February

End of Term:

Wednesday 30 March

Summer Term Starts:

Wednesday 20 April

World Book Day-

Thursday 4 March

Parents Evening-

Monday 8 – Thursday
11 March, further
details to follow



Class 2 News

"Old McDonald Had a Farm...." can be heard from Class 2. Can you guess what our topic is this term? Yes, correct, it is 'The Farm'. The children were so excited to learn all of the interesting facts related to the farm. This week we have been discussing animals and their babies, which animals lay eggs and which animals produce milk. We even had a turn to milk our pretend cow 'Rosie' which was so much fun. We have been reading lots of stories related to our topic, together with singing and playing ring games such as 'Farmer in the Den'. Our role play area has transformed into a farm and the children have had so much fun pretending to be farmers and looking after our animals.

In Maths, we have been practising reciting numbers in the correct order. The children used penguins, cars and farm animals with numbers on them to sequence in the correct order. Placing cars in the correct number order was the most popular activity. Fred explained, "I like it. I like the orange truck."

For Phonics, the children have been learning a new sound, 'n'. They loved singing the 'n is for nose' song and they also went on a 'n' sound hunt around the classroom. In addition, we have been revising all of the previous letters we have learned so far and I can proudly say that the children are making fantastic progress in recognising them. Our 'Sea of Sounds' phonics display looks busier than ever with all of the sound creatures swimming around. The children love looking at them and saying the individual sounds, especially when they are lining up to go to the garden or home.

Furthermore, Class 2 have been learning how to trace the individual letters of their names. They have enjoyed choosing their favourite colour markers and learning how to trace the first letter of their name. What little superstars!!!

Miss Andrea

Class 2 Photo Gallery

