



The Weekly News

BROADHURST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER | 7TH JANUARY 2022

DEAR PARENTS,

It has been lovely to welcome back the children after the Christmas Holidays and also to meet the new children and parents joining us for the first time this term.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

You may be aware that we have started the term with a number of staff self-isolating and the subsequent need to reinstate our remote learning programme for one of our classes this week. We hope that, if you were amongst those affected, that you have managed to access the live lessons and associated material on Google Classroom and that the children have enjoyed the activities offered.

We are well prepared, should we have further positive cases of Covid and staff absences that may necessitate further online learning for other classes. We hope very much that this will not be necessary and, with the support of everyone, we hope to keep the virus at bay over the coming weeks. We thank you for your support with this endeavour.



DIARY DATES

Monday 17 January 4:00pm

Welcome Talk for Class 1 Parents

Monday 31 January - Friday 4 February

National Storytelling Week

Thursday 3 March

World Book Day

STAFF TRAINING

On our Inset Day this Tuesday, we were very pleased to welcome Tanya Gelbart to School. Tanya is an experienced speech and language therapist who we have worked closely with for a number of years. Tanya shared her knowledge and insight on the broad subject of speech and language development. Her session covered many aspects of identification and support we are able to offer children in school alongside some practical suggestions for classroom use and types of therapy that she offers children to support their development on an individual and group basis.

We followed up this session with a focussed staff meeting yesterday, presented by Miss Belzer and Miss Buckler where we delved a little deeper into more general special educational needs including looking at sensory processing. Miss Belzer's contribution to this week's newsletter will give more detailed information.

THE LITTLE LUNCH COMPANY

We would like to invite any interested parents to join us for a Zoom presentation by The Little Lunch Company, who provide packed lunches specially designed for children. The presentation will take place next Wednesday 12 January at 1:00pm. A Zoom link will be shared a little nearer the time.



Mrs Sylvester



SENSORY PLAY

BY MISS BELZER

Sensory play includes any activity that stimulates your child's senses: touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing. Because young children's senses are still developing, each new sensory experience builds pathways that grow the architecture of the brain.

The brain growth that occurs through sensory play enhances children's senses, and their enhanced senses in turn make them better able to use those senses for learning. For example, as children engage with various textures, they learn which ones are rough or smooth, hard or soft, wet or dry. This awareness is a first step in learning to classify and sort objects.

Sensory activities facilitate exploration and encourage children to use scientific processes while they play, create, investigate and explore. Spending time stimulating their senses helps children develop cognitively, linguistically, socially, emotionally, physically and creatively.

Tactile materials allow children the opportunity to use all of their senses to explore ideas and concepts. As an open-ended activity, children have the opportunity to develop their imagination and experiment. Children have the opportunity to engage in new experiences, take a risk and learn by trial and error.



- **Language skills**

Children develop their language skills, including new vocabulary, as they talk about their experiences

- **Social skills**

Children who engage in sensory experiences alongside others learn to share, negotiate, and plan

- **Fine motor skills**

As children manipulate small objects, they develop their fine motor skills

- **Gross motor skills**

Children develop gross motor skills by squatting, jumping, or otherwise moving their bodies

- **Dramatic play skills**

Children frequently use sensory materials to engage in dramatic play such as by "baking cakes" or "building roads"

- **Scientific reasoning skills**

Children learn about cause and effect when manipulating sensory materials

- **Self-control skills**

Children develop self-control as they learn to respect the rules and boundaries for sensory play

CLASS 3 NEWS

BY MISS MONIQUE

This week our role play area was transformed into an airport and we had lots of fun packing our suitcases and checking in with our passports. As the weather turns colder, we have been exploring The Arctic by playing with ice and water and playing with arctic animals in our small world tray. We have been experimenting with the ice, observing what happens when we add salt to it.



IN PHONICS...

we have revised sounds 's' and 'a' and played the Silly Soup game naming objects beginning with each sound.

IN MATHS...

we are learning to count objects one by one and used an abacus to consolidate our one to one correspondence counting.



Class 3 wish you a lovely weekend and look forward to more learning next week!