

General Information

Chinese New Year - 1st February - The Year of the Tiger

Healthy Week - 7th-11th February

World Book Day - 3rd March - Children are invited to dress up as a character from a book or to wear their pyjamas

Science Week - 9th-13th March

Half term - 14th -18th February

Last Day of Term - 1st April

Our relationship with you is very important in order for your child to succeed. What parents do at home with their children has a major impact on social, emotional and intellectual development and children with strong home learning environments are ahead in both social and cognitive development at the age of three. Please share information with us about the progress your child is making at home, their particular likes, dislikes, interests or things they may find difficult. We will share information with you about your child's day at Pre-School and discuss how you can help your child further. This may be a brief discussion at the beginning or end of a session or we can arrange a telephone conversation with you. We will also keep you updated with activities and information through emails. 'The '50 Things To Do Before You're Five' app provides some great ideas of things to do at home! Please visit the following website:

www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire-early-years-and-childcare/narrowing-the-gap/50-things-to-do

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate .

Claire Covill
Pre-School Leader

LIONEL WALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL



LINK-UP SPRING TERM 2022

Pre-School - Mrs Covill

General Overview

This term, we are learning about seasonal changes from autumn to winter and spring. We will celebrate the following special events: Chinese New Year, Mother's Day, Healthy Week, Science Week, World Book Day and Easter. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning and our activities are planned to develop a range of skills within these. The Prime Areas will be our focus during the settling in period for our new children.

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In this area, the children will develop self-confidence, begin to manage their feelings and behaviour and build relationships with adults and peers. New children will be supported to settle, explore the activities, begin to make friends and develop some awareness of the rules and boundaries. They will gradually develop their independence as they become familiar with the routines and feel comfortable in their environment. Each day, we hold a 'Circle Time' when we play games in small groups and, through this, the children begin to gain the confidence to speak in a group, maintain attention, wait for their turn and listen to others. For those children already established in this routine, we continue to play lots of games to engage and challenge the children.

Communication and Language

Through this area of the curriculum, we work towards building the children's ability to listen attentively, speak in full sentences and develop their understanding. The children will begin to listen to and enjoy stories read to them, both in groups and one to one. We teach the children how to have respect for books and how to begin to make up stories using the pictures. We use books as a base for many topics, bringing the story alive with puppets and props and recalling the story through imaginary play. New words are explored through songs and rhymes. Please let us know if your child has any favourite stories that you read together at home. 'Rhyme Time' enables the children to learn a new collection of core rhymes during the term. Once we have introduced all the rhymes to the children, we will email them to you so your child can sing these with you at home.

Physical Development

This area looks at developing the children's fine and gross motor skills and health and hygiene. Please help us by teaching your child how to wipe their nose and dispose of the tissue. Ask them to sing you our handwashing song as your child rubs their hands thoroughly with soap. Please encourage your child to independently put on their coat, hat, scarf and mittens - mittens rather than gloves, unless they can put them on independently.

The children's gross motor skills are enhanced through activities such as climbing, dancing and using balls and hoops. Their fine motor skills are developed through opportunities to use tools, such as scissors and through their enjoyment of painting, drawing, collaging and using malleable materials.

Specific Areas

Mathematics, Understanding the World, Literacy and Expressive Arts and Design

Letters and Sounds - Many of our 'Circle Times' will include phonics activities, focusing on tuning into sounds, then after half term we will introduce a new sound each week. The 'Sound of the Week' will be displayed on the front door and you will receive ideas of activities that you could do at home.

Previously we have held a writing workshop during this term, giving you the opportunity to spend some time in the setting as your child explores the writing activities. As this opportunity is not currently possible due to Covid, we will send home ideas for writing challenges which you can support your child with at home. A firm pincer grip is needed to write and this is only achieved once the muscles in the hand and arm are strong, therefore a range of activities including threading, hammering, cutting, using tweezers, playdough, bubble wands, throwing and catching, pouring into containers and using cutlery are vital for your child's development at this stage.

Our library days are Monday and Friday, when the children will bring home a book on the Monday to be returned on the Friday so that they can choose a new one.

Your child will have the opportunity to explore and experiment through a range of materials, so please dress your child appropriately in order that they can fully enjoy this 'messy play'.