

### **Lionel Walden Pre-School Spring Term Link Up**

This term we are learning about seasonal changes from autumn to winter and spring. Other activities will be based around the theme of 'Superheroes'.

We will celebrate the following special events: Chinese New Year, Mother's Day, Healthy Week, Science Week, World Book Day and Easter. There will also be an invitation to attend our 'Phonics and Writing' workshop for parents.

The Early Years Foundation curriculum is divided into seven areas of learning and our activities are planned to develop a range of skills within these areas of learning. The first three areas are called the Prime Areas which we will focus on specifically if your child is new to the setting during their settling-in period.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Learning relates to Self-Confidence, Feelings and Behaviour and Making Relationships.**

Each day, key workers will play circle time games with their small group of children where the children will gain confidence with their new friends, begin to take turns to speak, wait for their turn in a game and listen to others.

For those children already established into this routine of group time, we continue to play a variety of games to engage and challenge them in all areas of their development.

The children will think about themselves as a superhero and the special things they can do. We will also discuss other people who help us, in particular those who help to keep us safe and healthy. If your job role is of a suitable nature to share with the children, we would be very grateful if you could come into Pre-School and briefly tell the children a little bit about your work as a 'superhero'!

#### **Communication, Language and Literacy Development Relates to Listening and Attention, Understanding and Speaking.**

The children will begin to listen and enjoy stories which are read to them in a small group and they will respond to comments and questions about these books. Their vocabulary will be enhanced through a range of stories and they will begin to focus for longer periods of time, recalling familiar stories and events which they will act out in their imaginary play.

The role play areas are set up to provide lots of opportunity for the children to develop their communication skills.

#### **Physical Development Supports the Development of the Gross Motor Skills**

Gross motor skills include climbing and using balls; in addition to this, fine motor skills will also be developed, such as learning to use scissors and painting, drawing, collaging and using playdough. It also relates to health and self-care where we will support the children to use the toilet independently, learn when it is necessary to wash our hands and the hand-washing sequence we use.

Children will learn about 'Super-bodies!' and how to keep their bodies healthy through exercise and healthy eating.

#### **Mathematics, Understanding the World, Literacy and Expressive Arts and Design** are the 'Specific Areas' of learning.

The children have the opportunity to take home a Pre-School book every day for you to share with them. To expand on this, you can encourage your child to anticipate what might happen next, recall familiar parts of the story and join in with words and phrases they are familiar with. Older children may begin to recognise and name familiar letters.

For those children starting school this September, we shall begin our 'Letters and Sounds' phonics sessions. Your child is invited to bring in one small item per week beginning with the 'Sound of the Week'. This item will be sent home on Friday. Please come and speak to me if you would like to know more about how we teach phonics. Later in the term, we will invite you to a writing/phonics workshop to support you in your child's readiness for school.

Sounds of the week beg: 11<sup>th</sup> Jan **s**, 18<sup>th</sup> Jan **a**, 25<sup>th</sup> Jan **t**, 1<sup>st</sup> Feb **p**, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb **i**, 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb **h**, 29<sup>th</sup> Feb **m**, 7<sup>th</sup> March **d**, 14<sup>th</sup> March **g**, 21<sup>st</sup> March **e**

### **'Wow!' Board**

Please contribute to our 'Wow!' board from time to time by bringing in something your child has achieved at home. This may be a picture they have drawn or a photo of an experience they enjoyed, such as learning to ride their bike. This is a great way to celebrate their achievement.

The Pre-School notice board is just inside the front entrance where you will find more details of the activities planned for each week. You may find this useful to read, enabling you to start off a conversation about what your child has been doing at Pre-School as they often find it difficult to recall the day's events.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to the staff at the beginning of a session if you have a concern or would like to know more about how your child is settling in and developing at Pre-School.

For those children who have started Pre-School this half-term, we will hold a stay and play session at the end of this half-term. You will have the opportunity to see your child happily settled with their friends and discuss with your child's key worker the progress they have made since starting with us.

We welcome parent helpers as the children benefit hugely from additional support in their activities; if you would like to help each week, please come and see me so that we can arrange a mutually convenient day.

Please check that your child has a NAMED bag on their peg with a full set of clothes to change into if needed. Thank you.

### **Diary Dates**

Stay and Play session for parents of new children: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Healthy Week: 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> February

Half Term: 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> February

Parents' Evening for those children starting school in September 2016: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

World Book Day: 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Science Week: 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March

Last day of term: 24<sup>th</sup> March

Claire Covill

Pre-School Leader