

SPRING
ISSUE

Newsletter

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SPRING TERM 2018

Morning School Themes

What a wet and windy start to our Spring Term. Fortunately our children (and staff) are robust! With warm waterproof hooded coats, hats and wellies we have still managed to get outside. We have added to our 'loose parts' provision enabling lots of creative and physical play. The children are excited to notice the bulbs they planted in the autumn are now emerging and our friendly Acorn robin is singing vociferously. Spring is on its way!

We started the term with a 'shape' focus. It inspired many children to go on a 'shape walk' at home. Thank you so much for posting their findings on Tapestry. We can then share this with the children in their group. The children feel proud as they can see their efforts are valued. The idea behind Tapestry is that it is 'sharing vehicle' for you to enjoy with your child and celebrate their achievements together.



Looking after our Acorn robin has been a good starting point for learning about birds. Foundation Stage children have prepared bird cakes, chosen places to hang them and then waited to see what happens.... They have helped each other fill seed containers and some have even been so kind to find tasty worms for him to eat! Our bird hide has provided opportunities for mark making and dramatic play. In Forest School we have looked at feathers

and their waterproof properties, and played games identifying garden birds - noticing their similarities and differences and learning their names. Later in the term we will make nests out of clay and sticks. Some beautiful drawings and paintings have been produced which we hope you will see when you arrive in the mornings.

We are mindful of iPad use and as a staff have decided that time should be limited and worthwhile. We have a few excellent apps which help consolidate the children's learning in the area of pre writing skills and letter formation. Alongside, we are introducing a letter sound each week. The children are learning to make the sound and form the letter correctly if their pencil control is sufficiently developed.

After half term we will be encouraging the children to learn and recite nursery rhymes along with signing some of them. Not only fun, but also helpful for pre reading development. We will look at Traditional Tales and celebrate the joy of sharing a good book. We welcome parents, grandparents, nannies and friends to please come in and read a favourite story to their child's group. The children love it! In our drama sessions we will be using the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. The songs that accompany the story as well as those that the children are learning with Mrs Crespel will be given to on a CD so that you may sing along on your way to school!

You may have noticed a display in our main room about Characteristics of Learning. There is an emphasis nowadays in early years on 'how' children are learning rather than simply 'what' they are learning. If they are motivated, curious, resilient, willing to make an effort and have ideas they will develop strong learning skills. The display shows photographs of our children involved in this aspect of learning. We are always looking to improve our Acorn environment both indoors and outside so that these characteristics can be encouraged.

Afternoon School

The numbers in our afternoon red groups are increasing as more children join us. All are now settled and forming good relationships with their peers and staff and enjoying busy afternoons. Our youngest children are in a very small group under the careful nurturing of Mrs Sayers and her assistant. Children who joined us in September are in a slightly bigger group led by Mrs Quinn. During the sessions the children have a balance of child initiated and teacher directed play including music, dance and lots of opportunities for free play throughout the school and garden. You will have received a CD of their Spring Music that they are enjoying with Mrs Risby and there will be an Open Music session at the end of term for you to enjoy.

Diploma in Early Years Workforce Level 3 and Degree in Childhood Studies'

Mrs Yvonne Gill is continuing her studies which she will complete in June and Mrs Baigent and Miss Bechelet are working towards their degrees. All are doing their placements with us and having the support and input from our lovely staff. If you are interested in gaining any of these very valuable qualifications do please talk to Mrs King or Mrs Scarborough.



Re Registration



Thank you once again for your wonderful comments and feedback through the survey. All the staff really appreciate your views and are very grateful that you are so supportive and enthusiastic about all that we do and provide for your children. We have a waiting list for September 2018 Foundation Stage and only a few spaces left for younger children.

Helpers

If any of our Morning School parents or nannies would like to help with our snack time on a regular basis please do see Mrs King. It is a wonderful way of discovering what life is really like in the school as well as being part of your child's learning environment.

Reminders

Please remember to put any hats (named) and gloves in the children's boxes and not on their pegs. Also if you are buying new shoes for your child please consider how independently your child can manage them - (garden play, yoga) i.e. no laces or tight trainers. .

Welcome!

Welcome to Mrs Crespel and Mrs Cotillard who have taken on our morning music and yoga classes respectively.

Christmas Fund Raising

Thanks to several wonderful mothers who baked cakes, made our Christmas DVD and to all of you who ordered the children's cards, which together with an Acorn donation meant that we were able to send £1,700 to Kivukoni School in Kenya. They were absolutely thrilled, so thank you.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2018

Half Term

Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February

End of Term

Wednesday 28th March mid day

Summer Term 2018

Tuesday 17th April - Friday 13h July

Half Term

Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June



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