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SPRING
ISSUE

Newsletter

SPRING TERM 2020

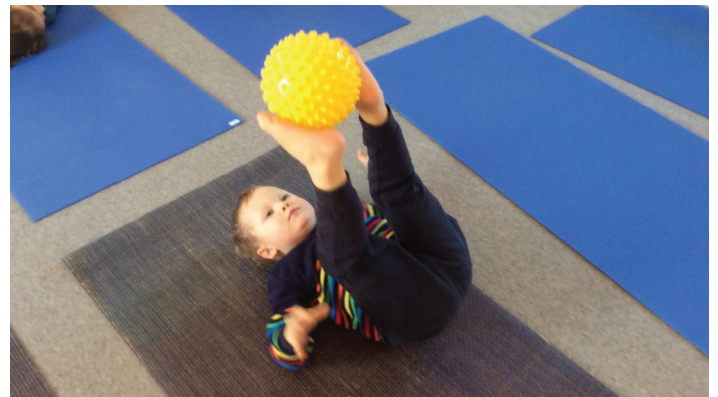
Welcome

'Shapes are everywhere' has been one of our main themes to explore this term. We started with simple matching and sorting then delved into their properties, their names, tessellating them, building with them and creating pictures. Noticing shapes in our environment - in packaging, structures and in everyday items has helped children relate what they are learning to design and function e.g. it's easier to build with cuboids and triangular prisms are good for rooftops!

Thank you for your Tapestry posts showing all the interesting places your children have noticed shapes - even down to the hexagonal screw in a door handle!

We are also looking after our garden birds by making bird cakes and have been delighted to welcome robins, blackbirds and great tits to our garden - along with the wood pigeons, crows, magpies and pheasants! Children seem to have a fascination for them and love identifying what they've seen on our posters and in books. A role play bird hide on our decking provides opportunities for imaginative play where birds can be 'spotted', sightings recorded and drawings made. In Forest School activities we have found birds in the trees (toy ones!) and taken them back to identify them. We've looked at feathers and made little wooden bird ornaments to take home.

These teacher-led activities are starting points. Hopefully we have inspired children to further develop their own interests in a child-led way. One little girl, having made her bird cake and her bird ornament of a sparrow chose to make a special drawing of one on Mrs Gillyett's card, something she probably would not



have done previously. We know that when children become really involved in their activities, following their own interests, a deeper type of learning takes place.

Our teacher-led sessions such as music, drama, yoga, cooking, Forest School and our 'group times' form part of our week providing a balance between them and our more child-led free play where children's interests are supported and play extended. In these situations we can encourage the all important 'Characteristics of Learning' where children problem solve, learn by trial and error, take risks, show persistence and focus alongside working collaboratively, turn taking, being aware of our and others' feelings, showing respect, being kind and helping to solve conflicts. Wow! What a lot our children are learning!

Later in the term our focus will move on to Traditional Rhymes and Stories where joining in with familiar refrains and reciting rhymes will be encouraged. We welcome anyone to come in to read their favourite stories in small groups - the children love it! Please do come! Mummies, daddies, grandparents, nannies. Times can be arranged to suit your diaries.

Tapestry – for Foundation Stage Children

We hope you are finding this online 'learning journey' informative. Please share the posts with your child - it reinforces the fact that you value what they are learning in nursery and that we all work together. Thank you for your 'likes' and comments and your posts from home that we can share with your child and their peers in our group times.



Helicopter Stories

Mrs Horsfall and Mrs King have attended some training - there's no helicopter in sight! - which we have now incorporated into our week. It's a programme that has been devised to encourage story writing in the early years. Each child tells the teacher a 'story'. It can be anything the child believes a story to be. We scribe it for them as they say it. Later the story is acted out on a 'stage' (a taped rectangle or rug) with the story writer choosing their part first. Each child is invited up on to the stage to be a character, as the story is read. All children's stories and movements on the stage are valued. The story listeners have as important part to play as those participating on the stage. The children gain self esteem for having their stories written, read and acted. They learn respect, turn taking, good communication and creativity and have a lot of fun!

Early Years Engineer

EYE are working with Skills Jersey to bring their programme to schools across the island. Mrs Quinn attended the initial training and is now putting it into practice with our Morning School children. The activities are designed to engage children in a variety of short, small group, practical STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) projects. During the first challenge the children made shakers to investigate materials and create different sounds. They were encouraged to be curious, share ideas and problem solve. We will be running small groups throughout the term to involve the children in this exciting new venture..

Healthy Eating

We are in the throes of writing a healthy eating/wellbeing policy for Acorn and would really value any thoughts you may have on the subject. Please let us know if you do.

If you would like to bring in a birthday cake may we ask for bite size sponge cakes without icing or shop bought madeleines

Wellcomm

We started using this 'toolkit' last term to identify areas of children's language that need some input. We are finding it really helpful and are using the 'Big book of Ideas' to support our teaching for all our children. Do ask if you would like any further information.

Read, Write, Inc

This programme is now underway. Children are introduced to a letter in a fun way once a week. They practice making the sound and writing the letter correctly. Please don't worry if your child isn't particularly interested at this stage. Simply bringing attention to letters (particularly in their name) sows the seeds for later in their development.





Afternoon School

A warm welcome to the new families who have joined us this term. The children have settled well under the experienced care of Mrs Sayers and Ms Bushnell and are developing interests in all our afternoon activities. There will be open music and dance sessions at the end of term for you to be involved in 'a typical session'. We are distributing CD's of the songs that they are learning so you can sing along on your way to school, near half term.

Congratulations to Mrs Stewart and Mrs Pearce

Who are now half way through their Diploma in Early Years Workforce level 3

If you are interested in gaining this very valuable qualification or the degree in childhood studies do please talk to Mrs King or Mrs Scarborough who are 'in house' assessors. A good way to discover if this is something that appeals to you, is to volunteer some time in the nursery.

Registration

Our lists are almost full now for the next 2 years. If you have a sibling that you have not registered and would like to, or a friend who may be interested to know more about the school, please contact Mrs Scarborough.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2020

Tuesday 7th January - Friday 3rd April

Half Term - Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Summer Term 2020

Tuesday 21st April - Friday 10th July

Bank holidays - Monday 4th May and Friday 8th May

Half Term - Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

Winter weather

Warm, waterproof coats preferably with hoods are everyday essentials. Shoes that children can remove and put back on easily only please - no laces! Named hats to be kept in children's group box and gloves in pockets.

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 £1000 to Kivukoni School in Kenya. They were absolutely thrilled, so thank you. Mrs Scarborough is visiting the school during the Spring Half Term, taking items to share, and learning more about school life in Africa.

Cheval Roc Residential and Nursing home

We are continuing our visits which gives great joy to our children and to the residents alike.



Rue du Tas de Géon, Trinity,
Jersey Channel Islands
JE3 5AN

Phone: 01534 864125

enquiries@acornnurseryschool.com

www.acornnurseryschool.com