

Westwards Nursery

Dear Parents/Carers,

This newsletter aims to update you on the current interests, activities, and learning within the sunshine room. Within the nursery we work towards the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework which is used nationally from the ages of birth to 5 years. We will refer to this, illustrating how our daily practice and activities link to this, as well as how you can support your child's learning and development at home. Please note, from September 2021 the EYFS has changed. There are 2 new frameworks, known as Birth to Five Matters, and Development Matters. Both frameworks will be used across the nursery.

The 'in the moment' style of planning, used in the nursery, is child focused and requires adapting environmental provision 'in the moment', in other words as soon as an apparent or reoccurring interest becomes known within play. A particular area of play may for example have resources added to it to meet such interests; this results in greater engagement and consequently the children's learning and brain development is increased.

Prime Areas of Learning.

Up to the age of three, there are three prime areas that are fundamental to a child's learning and development.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

We love singing in the sunshine room, we are always sharing songs with each other, for example during circle time in the morning we welcome everyone in with our "hello" song, this enables all the children to recognise each other and have a consistent routine. The children get to know each other's names through sound and using Makaton sign for the first letter of their name, the children watch intently and will often try to copy, consistent repetition is the key!

As with recent months, dolls and doll role-play continue to be a big area of interest within the sunshine room. The children love tending to their babies needs, feeding, dressing and even nappy changes! We spent one morning bathing the babies too, the children loved getting the soapy water and a flannel to wash the babies



Summer Term Dates...see
end for more info!

April

2nd – International Children's
book day

10th – Siblings Day

15th – Good Friday (Nursery
Shut but lots of easter crafts
and activities beforehand).

17th - Easter Sunday

22nd – Earth Day

23rd – St George's Day

25th – World Penguin Day

30th – International Jazz Day

before settling them to rest on the beds, it has been lovely to see the children develop their understanding of others needs through roleplaying.

We have been offering lots of opportunities for turn taking, an important life skill for our young people to learn. We have done this through small group activities using the clic-clac cars and the egg run. After practicing a couple of times the children encouraged each other and the younger babies to “wait” or “go” which was lovely to see.

Turn taking is a really important part of development so get your child to engage in turn taking with siblings or friends at home through simple activities, like passing a ball around or playing a game that involves waiting for their turn.



Communication and Language:

An area of interest within the sunshine room continues to be books, there is always a wide selection of books and magazines on offer for the children to select and look at throughout the day, we have a lovely comfy chair, and we will often find children sitting in it with a book on their lap, turning the pages, looking at the pictures. Due to the wide age range, some children can verbalise what they can see while others use pointing and eye contact to gesture to the adult what they can see if asked, for example “where is the teddy”.

We use Makaton signs through the day, these are used alongside the word so the children can hear the sound and see the sign at the same time and its lovely to see when children are able to do the sign back to us.

We have just introduced “Story of the month” in sunshine room, each month we will display the chosen story in our front window and will be planning some activities around the story.



Physical Development:

Physical development in the sunshine room is very important, gross motor skills, from first steps to running jumping and climbing, but also fine motor skills such as holding cutlery at mealtimes and controlling mark making equipment such as chalks and paint brushes. These fine motor skills are encouraged daily through role play in the home corner and access to chalks and crayons for plenty of mark making.

We have also been lucky enough to make the most of the weather in recent weeks and have been out and about to the local park to stretch our legs and see the local area. The children seemed to enjoy looking at the birds in queens park and seeing who could be the loudest!

Enjoy the warmer brighter days by getting out to the park or local woodlands. Outdoor learning is so valuable and will help develop gross movement, core strength, muscles, balance, and senses. Children will develop a passion for nature which is really important for well-being too. Maybe do some planting with your little one and watch something grow from seed to plant, herbs are an easy one to try!



Recent events

Throughout the past term we have celebrated a variety of events such as Chinese New Year, where the children had the opportunity to explore noodles using chopsticks and enjoyed a yummy Chinese inspired meal cooked by Allie which you will have seen on Facebook and Tapestry.

During this term we celebrated world book day, with some children dressing up as their favorite characters and bringing in their favorite stories to share with us. We have also celebrated red nose day by all dressing in red and raising money with your kind donations from the cake sale.

When a particular interest is noted, practitioners record observations and 'wow' moments on each child, based upon their individual play. We would love to know about your child's 'wow' moments at home, as well as their interests. Your child's 'focus child' week will enable all practitioners to focus on your child's particular interests. Being aware of your child's current interests and engaging with them within their play when necessary, may further support learning and development; sharing such ideas and interactions with practitioners at nursery will allow us to continue to provide enabling environments and provision which are individually engaging for all children.

The sunshine room has an email address which you can send any photos or information to directly.

westwardssunshine@btconnect.com

Please keep sharing your wonderful observations from home on Tapestry too, we love to see those uploads!!

We have also recently welcomed our new team member – Jen, who has settled in really well and has provided wonderful activities and already built up lovely relationships with the children 😊.

We look forward to an exciting summer term with lots of trips out and we have lots of fun activities planned.

Danielle, Rochelle, Jen and Tamzin.

Summer Term Events

April

2nd April – International Children's book day – Talk about favourite stories and the structure.

10th April – Siblings Day – Create pictures for our siblings (or those who are special to us in our family if no siblings).

15th – Good Friday (Nursery Shut but lots of easter crafts and activities beforehand).

17th _Easter – Easter Sunday is the most important day of the year for Christians who celebrate Jesus rising from the dead and defeating evil forever.

Make Easter cards. Easter baskets for Easter egg hunts around the garden or local park.

Enjoy all of your chocolate eggs!

22nd April – Earth Day - Raise awareness of the environmental issues which we face. Discuss our planet and ways we can protect it – polluted water play operation clean up.

23rd April – St George's Day – Talk about the event and why it is special plus creative activities.

25th April – World Penguin Day – Watch videos and discuss penguins, Hatch penguin ice eggs and sensory play.

30th April – International Jazz Day – Introducing the children to Jazz music and discussing the instruments used.

May

1st – May Day – Spring activities and maypole dancing/flags

2nd-8th of May – National sun awareness month – Sun activities and talking about the dangers of the sun.

2nd – 3rd May – Eid, discuss the celebration and different beliefs

5th May – Europe day – Look at the different countries, Flags, looking at the globe

12th May – International nurses' day – role play, dress up, discussions

18th May - Numeracy Day – lots of maths activities.

20th May – World bee day – honey on toast, bee crafts and tuff trays

23rd May – World Turtle Day - looking at videos, turtle small world.

25th May – Africa day – Baking, traditions.

28th May – Elmer Day – Elephant activities

29th May – National biscuit day – make and decorate own biscuits.

June

1st June – World milk day – Looking at the process of how milk is made, milk a cow activity (Gloves), milkshakes.

2nd – 3rd June – Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

2nd – 5th June – Queen's platinum jubilee weekend – celebrating the queen, cards, crowns.

5th June – World environment day - How we can look after our planet.

6th -12th June – Bike Week – using the bikes, obstacles, parking

8th – World Ocean Day – Water play. Sea animals. Face painting. Ocean books, Tuff trays, Ocean discussions

19th June – Father’s Day Make cards. Invite dads into nursery to read stories

21st June – Make music day – musical instruments, experiencing different types of music jazz, classical etc.

21st June – Summer begins – Summer crafts

27th June – 10th July – Wimbledon fortnight – Visit the tennis courts, strawberries and cream.

July

4th July – Independence Day

The day the US secured independence from the British Empire after the Revolutionary War. Celebrate with hot dogs, beach parties, baseball games.

7th July - End of term party – TBC depending on restrictions

Ice cream van and inflatable garden party.

8th July – End of Term!

30th July – International Friends Day

Circle time – songs & hugs. Make a card for your friend.

August

4th August - International Owl Awareness Day

Celebrate one of the most iconic bird species and raise awareness to their plight in the wild and what we can all do to help protect them

8th August – International cat day – celebrate your furry friend

10th August – World Lion Day. To raise Lion conservation awareness.

Lion stories and activities – stamping/printing/footprints etc.

11th August – Farmers’ Market visit TBC

Mid - End August - Wise Owls Graduation Party – date tbc