

Westwards Nursery

With the launch of our new website, we renamed Pre-School to Little Stars, as this is keeping with the other nursery rooms, and we felt it best described the older children before flying the nest to big school.

We have been super busy during May. We have been learning a lot about the sound and letter 's'. We have been using our mathematical skills creating towers to represent numbers. As well as this lots of imagination skills have been used especially, regarding playing shops. We will also be preparing for transitioning your child to school over the next few months.

Prime areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

To celebrate our friendships this month the children in pre-school were given the opportunity to attend a party at soft play to celebrate one of their friends' birthdays. It was lovely to see so many cards and gifts bought in to celebrate people who are close to us. This links directly into making relationships – Builds relationships with special people but may show anxiety in the presence of strangers.

Thank you to the lovely parent who arranged a soft play party for the children to attend. You can encourage friendships at home by discussing your child's friends at nursery and what it is they like about them.



Upcoming June Events

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 – Sausage roll day – Sausage rolls for tea

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 – tuff trays, ocean discussions, ocean animals

19th June – Father's Day

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 – Tennis, strawberries and cream.



Communication and Language:

Throughout May we have started our new letter focus which was 's', to facilitate this the children have been exploring different senses, we have spoken about all of them and explored senses through our outings as well as a sensory experience using lots of different materials such as sage, rosemary, coffee, lemon juice and even looking at braille and how this is presented on packaging. We then discussed in detail what each of us thought we could smell and taste. This links into communication and language – focusing attention – can still listen or do, but can change their own focus of attention.



Physical Development

We have been very busy practicing our oral hygiene practices. The children are guided through this through adult-led interaction. We all get into a circle and follow instructions well when doing this. After we have done this, we always discuss the reasonings behind the need for brushing our teeth and ways in which we can keep our teeth healthy. If your little one struggles with brushing their teeth at home, why not do this together in the mornings and the discuss the benefits in doing so. This links into health and self-care in the following way – Shows some understanding that good practices regarding exercise, eating, drinking water, sleeping and hygiene can contribute to good health.

Regarding our physical development we have been practicing our gross motor movements by playing football. One of the children bought in a ball to nursery and the children were besotted, so we took this opportunity to arrange a group activity in the garden, taking turns and practicing our ball skills such as kicking, throwing, and catching.





Specific areas of learning:

Literacy

In Little Stars we have reintroduced learning a letter of the fortnight. This goes hand in hand with our phonics sessions to really gain a deep and meaningful insight into the sound of the letter and recognition by sight. To encourage learning in this area we have made our own sandwiches, found lots of s objects to explore and when reading stories listened out for words that start with the sound. Ensure to stay up to date with the letter of the fortnight, so you can also focus on this letter at home 😊.





Mathematics:

We also lead adult-led maths sessions throughout the week, ensuring to incorporate mathematics through play to help develop this area of learning. We have been focusing on representing numbers through the use of cubed towers and matching them to the number represented on a piece of paper all the way up to 10. The children have also had access to this activity during free-play and a lot of the children have been engaging with this in their own way and time. This links directly into math's in the following way – Begins to recognise numerals 0-10. As well as this we have also been looking at shapes discussing how many sides shapes have and matching them to their outline within a tuff tray.

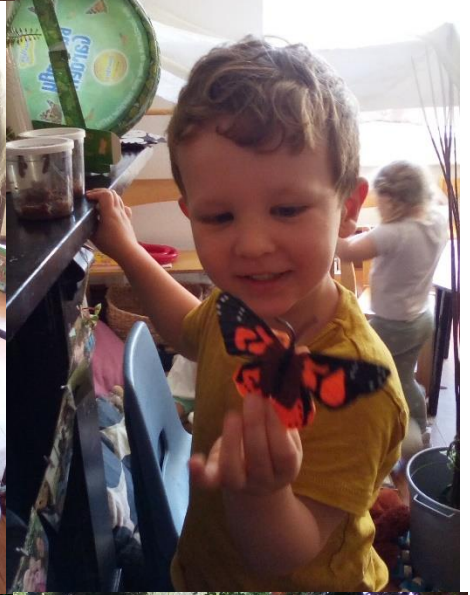




Understanding the World:

During May we have been super involved and engaged through the observation of our caterpillars, we are patiently waiting for them to turn into butterflies and can not wait to release them back into their natural habitat. During this time, we have been looking at the lifecycle of a caterpillar and discussing each stage in detail during the steps that have been happening. As well as this we have also visited the chickens showing great care and concern for them. This links directly into understanding the world in the following way – developing an understanding of growth, decay, and changes over time as well as shing care and concern for living things and the environment.





Expressive Arts and Design

The children have been using their imagination in a range of different ways this has been doctors, families, ghosts, and lots of action play. In particular they have taken a key interest in playing shops. Something in which we will further during their maths sessions by creating coins and the children have to identify the correct number of coins for the object of their choosing. It has been so lovely seeing so much imagination being used and with strong links from their time away from nursery. This link into being imaginative and expressive – engages in imaginative play based on own ideas or firsthand or peer experiences.



Forest School

During Forest School the children have been making journey sticks, this is where when they venture into the woods, collect natural materials of interest and then twine them onto their own sticks, using their fine motor skills. The children were in awe at this activity. As well as this we have been exploring sense within the forest to go alongside our letter 's'.



Announcements

- Please can all parent's provide labelled sun cream for their children to remain at nursery. Please ensure you have put sun cream on your child before nursery.
- We will start PE lessons after the half term, so all children require a p.e kit with shorts and a change of t-shirt as well as a change o shoes either plimsolls or trainers. This is to help children master their skills in getting dressed and undressed. This is something we do every summer to boost independence and speed, ready for school to ease the pressure on schools.
- Polite reminder to avoid your child eating nuts before attending nursery. This is due to a child requiring an epi-pen if a reaction is had due to nuts.
- Rochelle will also be joining us within pre-school. She is looking forward to joining us and will be an active key worker for some of your children.

Have a lovely Jubilee Bank holiday!