



Playgroup News – Friday 11th March 2022

Hello Everyone... Here is our Playgroup News for this month...



What have we been up to?!?

Over the past few weeks, the children have been engaged in the following activities:

- Squirrels- Mark making using the dabbers and white boards and large scale welly painting. Exploring home corner, cooking different foods and using the baskets to go shopping. Investigating our new resources such as the phones and tubes, talking to each other through them and making different sounds. Using sweeping brushes to clean up, to push toys around, role-playing witches with broomsticks, playing 'splat the rat' and taking part in 'curling' events! Investigating our new jelly numbers in the tuff spot, matching the jelly numbers to the numbers on the mat. Continuing to enjoy the soft play outdoors to build, climb and balance.
- Penguins- Lots of outdoor play, using the playground to develop gross motor skills using hoops, balls, scoops and chalk. There has been lots of interest from the children in writing their own names, initially using their name cards and then extending into exploring letters in sand and water. The children search for the letters in their name and try hard to put them in the right order to spell it. The Penguin children have begun to decorate their new 'Spring Display,' by making flowers. There has been a HUGE interest in creating props to support role-play by making swords, wings, crowns, fans, treasure maps and guitars!!



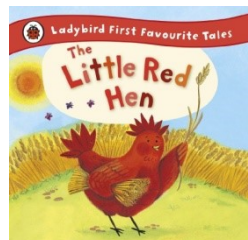
Please remember to check your child's Tapestry Learning Journey to see lots of pictures and find out more about what they have been up to!!

Important Notices

- Please ensure your children have **appropriate clothing** for the weather we are experiencing e.g. **warm** coats, hats, scarves, gloves etc. The children go outside for long periods of time throughout the day so please ensure they are well equipped for the weather, thank you!
- If your child's lunch requires a **spoon**, please can you ensure they have one in their lunchbox.
- **PLEASE NAME ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS** e.g. water bottle, spare

clothes, coat, hat, scarves, gloves etc. Children often put down their belongings and it is impossible to know who's is who's when there are no names on them.

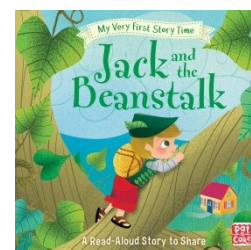
- If any of your contact details, including your emergency contact information has changed, **PLEASE** make sure you inform the Manager's. It is of paramount importance that we are able to make contact with parents/carers and/or emergency contacts. **Every child requires AT LEAST two emergency contacts on their registration form.**
- Some children are **frequently collected late at the end of the day**, unfortunately if this continues then we will have to charge **late pick up fees**. We open the gate at 2:55pm so you are able to pick your children up from us **first**, before collecting school children.



Story Making

This term our story making texts are:

The Little Red Hen- Squirrel Children
Jack and the Beanstalk- Penguin Children

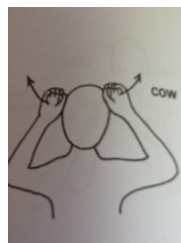
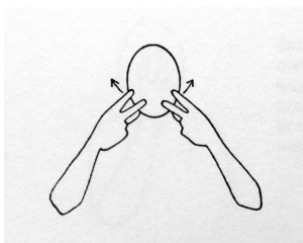


Both rooms have been listening to the story and creating story maps of the main parts of the story. For the rest of this term, the children will continue to learn the story through a variety of ways, such as sequencing the story, acting out the story and retelling the story using props.

Story making is designed to support children develop a love for stories; it also supports their early literacy skills.

MAKATON

Every few weeks we learn a new MAKATON sign and the signs we have been learning over the last few weeks are: MILK and WATER. The new signs we will be learning are in line with our story making texts. Our new signs are: CAT and COW



Illnesses and COVID-19

As you are all aware, we have had **MANY** cases of a sickness and diarrhoea virus over the last few weeks, affecting children and staff members across the setting. We would like to thank all parents/carers for their understanding with this situation and complying with the 48 hour isolation period. The setting will continue to be extremely vigilant with any child or staff member who is unwell and parents/carers will be contacted if children are displaying **ANY** symptoms of **ANY** illness or virus. In extreme cases of illness, particularly affecting staff members, we may have to make the decision to **temporarily close** the setting if we are not able to staff the sessions safely, this is why it is very important that children **do not attend** if they are not well.

COVID 19

From 24 February, the Government removed the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. In addition, the Government will no longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days and routine contact tracing will end.

- Adults and children who test positive on a PCR, or LFD test, will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days.
- For people who have any of the main symptoms, the public health advice remains unchanged and is to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They should order a PCR test and are advised to stay at home while waiting for the result.

You will receive a copy of our latest Risk Assessment and Contingency Plan which explains the additional measures we will take if we experience an outbreak of Covid-19 at the setting. Please spare a few minutes to read these documents.

Handwashing

The children engage in many episodes of handwashing throughout their day in the setting. Please can you continue to support your child at home, teaching them how to wash their hands properly.



- 1) Wet hands with water
- 2) Apply enough soap to cover hands
- 3) Rub hands together, rubbing the front and back of hands and in between the fingers.
- 4) Rinse hands with clean water
- 5) Dry hands using a clean towel or single use towel.

Dates for the Diary



RED NOSE DAY- Friday 18th March 2022- Children are invited to come in in their Pyjama's or fancy dress!!

Mother's Day- Sunday 27th March 2022



**End of Term- Friday 8th April 2022.
Start of Summer Term A- Monday 25th April 2022.
Bank Holiday- Monday 2nd May 2022.**