

# HEAD TEACHER HEADLINES:

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Welcome to another head teacher headlines.

This week has seen some lovely weather so the children have been spending lots of time outdoors in the garden building up their confidence climbing and helping to keep the garden tidy by sweeping up after they have finished playing. The sunshine is meant to carry on into the weekend so I hope you manage to continue the outdoor play and visit the parks and open spaces around where you live.



This week, the children in the nursery one classes (Caterpillars and Butterflies) have continued reading the hungry caterpillar and engaging in activities based on the story. Some of these activities have been creating butterflies with sponges, cutters and paint and collaging caterpillars. The children have also been using ramps to explore how different objects move such as animals, cars and balls. We have been encouraging them to problem solve why the animals don't roll down the ramp like the cars and balls do. The children have been exploring magnets and going on a hunt to find objects that are magnetic. The children continue to watch the changes that they can see with our real live caterpillars as the turn into cocoons and eventually turn into butterflies. The children have been using water to fill and pour into containers. They have talked about full and empty. Some other activities the children in nursery one have been doing is making fruit kebabs and fruit salad and observing the changes to ice as it melts. It has been a very busy week!

The children in nursery two classes (Ladybirds and Honeybees) have been very busy learning about life cycles, especially that of a caterpillar and chicks. They have been exploring water in the garden on different levels and have really enjoyed baking in the mud kitchen. The bikes have been out in the garden looking at safety (wearing a helmet) and making sure not to bump into anyone. The sandpit in the garden has been turned into a book nook with comfortable seating and a selection of books for children to read and explore with friends, an adult or alone.

The children have also been busy making cakes, developing fine and gross motor skills by pouring and mixing. They have also been developing skills in maths such as counting and making comparisons between quantities such as "which bowl has the most flour in?" "who has the most eggs?" "how many more eggs does...have?"

The children in nursery two have also been continuing to develop writing their own name. Children this age will be making sure they are using their preferred hand, holding a pen/pencil correctly and making recognisable marks where they can tell you what it means. We are not expecting perfectly clear names at this point. We want to ensure that the muscles in the core (tummy), shoulders, arms and fingers are developed to enable comfortable mark making. Then we will want to see some marks which might look like individual letters or they may still be scribbles on the page. You can help us to develop this further by asking your child to help write a shopping list or by signing their name in a card. This picture (to the right) shows two hands. One is a child's hand while the other is a fully developed adult hand. The difference between the two hands is clear. The child's hand have under developed bones which are not made for being manipulated into certain positions for extended periods of time.

If you think your child is not ready for writing pens/pencils, mark making in shaving foam and glitter etc will give children opportunities for mark making at a stage which is right for them.



We had the arrival of our eggs last week which gave children chance to watch the chicks hatch-photos to follow!

At each governors meeting, the staff within the nursery nominate another member of staff to receive a governor thumbs up. This is recognition for a member of the staff team who have gone above and beyond. The latest member of staff to receive these governor thumbs up are:

Katie in Caterpillars-During a time of high sickness amongst children and staff, Katie found herself being the only Ladybird member of staff still standing. Katie kept the room running smoothly and made sure the children were happy during a time of change. Katie worked well with a number of different staff who stepped in to make sure the classes were in ratio, including the senior leadership team. WELL DONE KATIE!

Kristie in Caterpillars-Kristie has worked so hard to get the new room up and running ready for the new children to arrive after Easter. Kristie has also been nominated for her leadership and management of the classroom. Whilst conducting a walk around, it was noted that Caterpillars was extremely calm with all the staff engaged and attentive to the children's needs. Kristie was observed meeting the needs of every child in her class from noticing that a child who is nonverbal was requesting something to distracting another child who was still settling. As a new leader, it was lovely to see the room being led effortlessly. WELL DONE KRISTIE!

On Monday, we were joined by Liz, who was successful in the appointment of HR manager. Liz is joining our already established and effective office team and will be supporting myself and the team in many different areas of employment. She will also be keeping our new website up to date so please look out for that. I would like to welcome Liz into the Chapel Street family and please say hello to her on the playground when she joins us at meet and greet.

**I would like to end this head teacher's headlines letting you know that I won't be back for a few weeks after the half term. Next week, I am undergoing some preventative surgery. Following my surgery, I will need at least 4 weeks' recovery time. I am hoping to be back after this time but it may take longer to get back into the building. You will be kept updated. Liz Jenkins will be leading the nursery school in my absence with support from our governing body and neighbouring head teachers. Sarah Cain will support Liz in the senior leadership team along with all the staff.**

Wishing you all a happy and healthy half term.

Sarah Gilbert