

HEAD TEACHER HEADLINES:

Vol:3 3rd May 2024



It's a wet and windy Friday which means time for another Head Teachers headlines.

The weeks are passing by so quickly this half term with only 3 weeks left until we break for May half term. The children and staff continue to be busy in their classes and in the garden.



The Nursery one classes this week have enjoyed reading the book "the hungry caterpillar." They have been cutting and sticking, making collages of a caterpillar, counting fruit and finding the correct number to match what they have counted and explored different mini beasts. They have kept active on the small trampoline and they borrowed the climbing equipment from the Meadow today to do some climbing indoors whilst it was too slippery to climb outside. The children have also been baking cakes, taking care of the guinea pigs by feeding them and stroking them, and have been exploring textures such as shaving foam, sand, pasta, water etc.

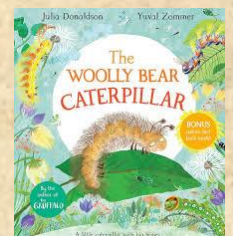


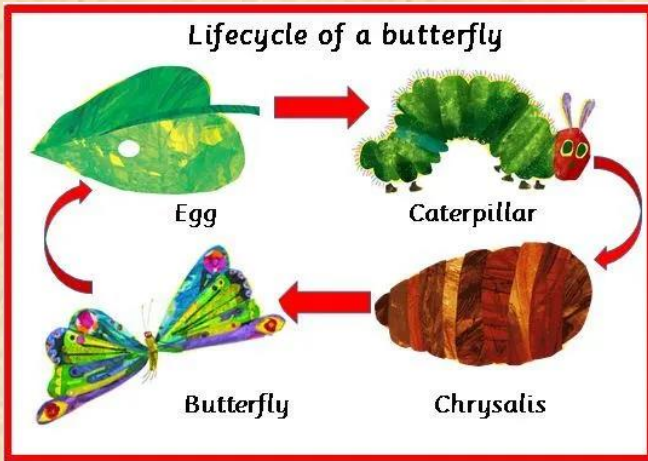
As promised last week, the nursery one data has been analysed. Again, I am so proud to say that the % of children who are on track has increased in all but one area of the curriculum. We saw a huge 30% increase in the amount of children on track in literacy and an even bigger 34% increase in the amount of children on track in understanding the world. We had a small drop in the % of children on track in PSE but this is to be expected as, when new children start, they are often unable to regulate their own emotions and won't be physically able to play alongside other children. This drop was only 3%. Although we have seen a real improvement in the % of children on track in areas such as literacy, communication and maths, we still have some work to do to ensure our children are ready to pick up the nursery two curriculum by the time they are ready to move up.

WELL DONE BUTTERFLIES!!!

The nursery two classes have also been very busy exploring magnets, finding what items are magnetic and which ones are not...then discussing why. They have been making things with clay, baking cakes and doing big mark making on paper on the floor. Both Honeybees and Ladybirds have been playing with shredded paper-filling and pouring, squashing it into containers and throwing it up the air. There has been a lot of hoovering and sweeping happening in the classes-maybe the children can carry on helping with the house work at home!

The book being read this week in Nursery two is "The Woolly Bear Caterpillar" which is all about a caterpillar who turns into a moth instead of a butterfly. Can your child re tell the story to you?





All classes have received some baby caterpillars this week. We will watch them grow bigger and eventually go inside its cocoon/chrysalis before hatching into a beautiful butterfly. We will then release the butterflies into the garden and watch them fly away.

A few reminders:

AS instructed in earlier parent mails, please **don't** park on the pavement across the road from nursery. Not only is it putting lives in danger by other adults and children having to walk on the road to pass, it is causing real issues when cars can't get past. Traffic jams are forming which means drivers will become irate which could lead to driving carelessly in frustration. If you need to come to nursery in the car, please park further down the road if there are no spaces directly out front. The traffic wardens do come to this area to deter people parking in dangerous places. Alternatively, you can walk, scoot or bike to school! This would help the environment and give your children a bit of exercise, getting them ready for a day of learning.



SITTING DOWN TO EAT...

Sitting down when eating is an expectation that we would really like to embed here at nursery school and when children are at home.

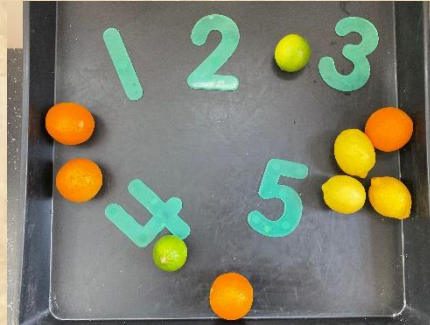
Here at nursery, children are **not** allowed to walk around whilst eating. This includes breakfast, snack and lunch. If children are not sitting whilst eating, they can very easily choke on the food their mouth. Although we are all trained to deal with situations like this, none of us want to ever have to.

You can help us by-

1. leading by example. Sit as a family at the table to eat. Children will copy what their parents do.
2. setting clear expectations
3. being consistent (don't give in)

TODAY I saw a few children arriving to nursery with no suitable coat on for the rain. We will still go outside when it rains so please send your child in a coat. We do have spares that we will lend while your children are here but they need to be appropriately dressed. If you are struggling financially and would like support to get coats appropriate for the weather, please speak to us. We have links with the salvation army and other agencies who can help with vouchers to buy new or a bank of good quality used clothing that can be donated. We are discreet and happy to help. Please contact Sarah Cain, family worker in the first instance.

In Meadow this week, the children have been exploring food. They have made orange juice by squeezing oranges, linked numbers to qualities and tasted the citrus food sensory tray. They have also been mark making in glitter.



In stay and play this week, the children and their families have been building relationships with other parents, interacting and responding to the needs of their children and using the time to discuss and worries they have with our experienced family worker, Sarah. The activities have been based around sea creatures with blue dough, sea animals and books linked to the activities.

Do you have toys or electronics at home with button batteries in? If so, are you aware how dangerous they can be to babies and young children? If a baby or young child swallowed a button battery, they could be badly injured or even killed. If swallowed, the battery would react to the saliva in the mouth and burn a hole in the area of the body where the battery is. Please ensure batteries are stored securely and that any toys with button batteries inside have a screw to lock the covering, which will prevent children getting them out. You can find information about the button battery safety campaign here on the Gov.uk website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-button-battery-safety-campaign#:~:text=Button%20batteries%20react%20with%20saliva,internal%20bleeding%2C%20or%20even%20death>

thank you

A big **thank you** to everyone who supported us at Easter...you raised £186! This will go a long way towards funding lots of new and exciting experiences for the children at Chapel Street Nursery School.

That just leaves me to remind you that Monday 6th May is a bank holiday so the nursery will be closed that day. We will be open again as normal on Tuesday 7th May. We hope you have a lovely long weekend and that the weather is kinder to us than it has been in recent days.



From Sarah and Liz