

Willaston Pre-school Newsletter Spring 2 2023

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At Willaston Pre-school, we believe that children have a right to expect a curriculum which is fun, motivating, interesting and most importantly purposeful. We strive to develop imagination through a stimulating, creative environment where every child has the opportunity to shine. Above all we strive to develop a modern, fun curriculum that will inspire and challenge all learners and prepare them for the future.

Welcome to the Spring 2 Newsletter. Our focus will be America and growing. The children will have the opportunity to grow different vegetables and flowers, watch changes in plants as they grow, while learning about America and about some of the animals that live there.

Literacy and Communication we will be focusing on:

- We will continue to develop our love of reading by sharing stories chosen by the children.
- We will be having fun with sounds and continuing our phonics.
- There will be a fantastic story week starting on 13th March. Every day this week there will be a story told using props, drama and children participation! We will also have an Author and an Illustrator visit us.
- We will talk about plants growing and have our own garden centre.

In Maths we will be focusing on:

- We will be using numbers during play and working on individual achievements such as increasing the numbers we are familiar with and gaining an understanding of the value of these numbers.
- There will be lots of opportunities for using shapes and to build with construction, make pictures and learn some 2 & 3d shapes.

In Expressive Art and Design we will be focusing on:

- What fun we will have making models
- Exploring colour change
- There will be opportunities for us to paint, make collages and draw animals that live in America
- We will be acting out our favourite stories

In Understanding of the World we will be focusing on:

- We will show an interest in our environment and having weekly explorer days.
- We will continue learning outdoors and using natural materials whenever possible.
- There will be different seeds to plant, look after and watch grow

In Personal, Social and Emotional Development we will be focusing on:

- We will learn to share our ideas with other children when playing and listen to our friends.
- There will be lots of opportunities to explore nature in our garden and the park, so we will be working on following instructions and staying safe outside our setting
- We will have new children who we will make friends with.

In Physical Development we will be focusing on:

- We gain confidence in moving on a range of levels in our visits to the park.
- We will continue to develop our fine motor skills and pencil control.
- We will be making lots of models so we will be using scissors and other tools

Book focus- Week 1-What do we know about America?

Week 2- Bear stories

Week 3- Book Week- Dress up as a book character (13/3/23) We have an Author and Illustrator coming into visit (16/3/23). I am including a link to her books which are excellent for developing communication and literacy skills in useful information

Week 4- American animal stories

Week 5- What have we learned about America?

Other useful information

- Diaries and reading books to be returned daily please.
- Children need clothing suitable for the weather– we love to learn outside.
- Please label clothes, water bottles and lunch boxes with your child's name. If ordering Stikine labels (easy labelling from a Nantwich company at <https://www.stikins.co.uk/>), please use fundraising code 35315 as the company donates 30% to us.
- During this term we are going to choose a day a week to be an outdoor explorer; during this day we will adopt a "learning through nature style of curriculum".
- We introduce your children to new vocabulary from the books of the week- you can find the new words on the window of Pre-school.
- We break up on 31st March and start back on 17th April.
- **World Book day- We are moving it to 13th March. Please dress as a book character**
- **Book Week- We are having an Author who has written books to develop communication for early years children- Nicola Copson 16th March – web link - <https://twitter.com/NicolaCopson>. We will also have Amelia Hatt Illustrator coming to visit on 15th March.**
- We are visiting Richmond Village to share books and give out Mother's day cards on 16th March
- **Parent's evening will be on 22nd March**

Here are some ideas for you to do with your child to help to develop the skills we are learning in class:

- Point out numbers in the environment; car number plates, door numbers, signs etc.
- Share Nursery Rhymes that you enjoyed as a child. We will be teaching new rhymes and giving the children the chance to share rhymes that they know.
- Talk to your children about their food, what do we eat that is good for us and keeps us healthy?
- Talk to your children about plants and trees growing and changing- look for leaves changing colour and seeds, encourage your child to use their senses to explore the plants in your garden (make sure you make it clear that some plants are good to eat and some are not)
- Give them opportunities to mark make; this could be painting with water on tiles, using sticks to make patterns in sand, pencils, felt tips, chinks to name but a few.
- Don't forget you have a list of pre-reading skills to help make the most of story time.
- It's important and fun to share a range of books and have lots of experience with information books and fiction. Check your child understands most of the text so the story or information is accessible for your child.

Safeguarding- Take a look at the NSPCC website to keep your children safe online <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>