

Willaston Pre-school Newsletter Autumn 1 2024

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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 Autumn 1 Newsletter. This year we are going to be looking at artists and authors from across the world or using books based on aspects of the given country. The focus this half term is Africa.

Welcome to all our children and their families. Children who are returning after the holidays and new additions are settling in well. We have had a lovely couple of weeks getting to know the new little Butterflies and hearing news from the older children.

In the first week the Busy Bees have looked at the book 'Giraffes can't dance' with the younger Butterflies looking at the touch and feel version. We also learnt a new rhyme 'Giraffe song' Week 2 saw the Busy Bees concentrating on the book 'Handa's surprise'. They played games based on, and tasted fruit, from the story. The Butterflies looked at 'Can you say it too? Roar Roar' and learnt the song 'Crocodile song' with some brilliant dancing taking place.

In addition to the stories and rhymes the children have been creating some fantastic artwork.

In the coming weeks our learning will be based around the following books and rhymes

Week 3 – Big cats

Busy Bees – The tiger who came to tea

Butterflies – That's not my lion and Row row row your boat. For those unfamiliar with all the verses a lion does appear.

Week 4 – Elephants

Busy Bees – Elmer and 'Elephants have wrinkles'

Butterflies – Are you there little elephant and the rhyme 'Elephants have wrinkles'

African drumming workshop on Monday 30 September

Week 5 – Animal counting books

Busy Bees – Handa's hen

Butterflies – Countdown to Bedtime

Week 6 – Monkeys

Busy Bees – Monkey puzzle and the rhyme 5 cheeky monkeys swinging in the trees

Butterflies – Ten little monkeys and the rhyme 5 cheeky monkeys bouncing on the bed

Week 7 - Apes

Busy Bees - Mr Big, CBeebies: Boogie Beebies - Hey Monkey (youtube.com)

Butterflies – 'Tall' and 'Hug'

Week 8

Busy Bees - Jungle stories

Butterflies- Walking through the jungle

Things to remember- As the weather seems to be somewhat mixed can we ask that all children come in with coats and suitable shoes. Our little ones really do love to jump in puddles.

We have now moved our observations over to Tapestry. If you have not yet activated your account, please do so as the first of the term's observations will be sent out shortly. If you cannot find your original email please talk to a member of staff who will organise for a new email to be sent.

Observations are normally sent on weeks 3 and 6 but as this initial term is 8 weeks long we will be sending them out on weeks 4 and 8.

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.
- 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 Thursday 24th October and return on Monday 4th November.
- We have a selection of uniform available to buy: polo shirts - £11, sweatshirts - £15
- For other online transactions, Easyfundraising also donates to pre-school. Register at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/willastonpresch>. See our fundraising page for other ideas <https://www.willastonpre-school.org.uk/fundraising/>

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, chalks 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.
- If you have any special skills or work in an area that we are covering please get in touch as we would like to offer the children as many experiences as possible.

Safeguarding- Take a look at the NSPCC website to keep your children safe online

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

It is very important that you update our records when your contact details change. If you have moved house or have a new phone (or your emergency contact has) please let us know asap.