

## Nursery Newsletter Spring Term 1 2017

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a brilliant break. We are sure that the children have been keeping you very busy at home and we can't wait to have our busy bees back in class! This term we welcome Ariya, Artyom and Edward to Nursery. Our established children will be helping our new starters settle in using our Buddy regime- something they love to do! To aid 'settling back in' after the break and further support our new starters, our circle times for the next fortnight will focus on the skills we need to be a Super Friend! We will also be really highlighting our Proud Clouds, as we reinforce what good learning behaviour is in the classroom!

We now have 37 children attending Nursery, this is set to rise to 42 by Easter. Our overviews are now full, our sessions have reached the maximum number of children we can legally take. This means we are no longer able to offer the flexibility we could last term, eg swapping sessions or days. If you spoke to Mrs Wall at Parents Evening in October about increasing your child's hours in the future, then the sessions have been pencilled in. However, these need to be confirmed with Mrs Wall as soon as possible (before February half term). We have one, possibly two, 30 hour funded places left. If this is something you were considering, applications need to be completed and handed in to the office. Thank you!

Our theme for this half term is:

### Winter Wonderland

Please remember this is a 'loose' theme, most of our planning happens one day for the next, or in the moment! We support and extend children's development using what they are interested in and what is meaningful to them. Our weekly news slip always details what has been pre-planned by Mrs Wall and what the children have been focused on in their own initiated work. It is usually in the child initiated work that we see the deepest learning take place, so it's always interesting to see what has taken their fascination during the week. The following details the specific learning objectives of the Foundation Stage Curriculum that our planning will focus on. The children also take part time in circle time, phonics, rhyme time and story each day!

#### Communication and Language

As always with our rhyme time, the underpinning learning is repeating a beat and understanding patterns in spoken language (rhyme). We are combining our Mathematics focus with our



rhyme time this half term. We will be working on giving one, then two more. Here is a copy of one of the rhymes we will be learning.

One little penguin crying boo hoo-  
A friend comes to join him,  
Now there are two!

Two little penguins eating their tea,  
One more joins them.  
Now there are three!

Three little penguins looking for more,  
One more joins them,  
Now there are four!

Four little penguins wanting to dive,  
One more joins them,  
Now there are five!

**Please don't forget our Show and Tell session on a Friday! This supports some fundamental listening and attention skills. It also assists other areas of communication needed to converse, for example answering an open-ended question and expressing a personal opinion!**



## **Literacy**

The children will be involved in shared reading and storytelling every day. All the stories are based on our theme. Below is a list of stories you can find on YouTube that we will be covering in class. You might enjoy sharing these with your children at home.

Penguin by Polly Dunbar

Penguin and Pinecone: A Friendship Story by Salina Noon

Penguins Love Colours by Sarah Aspinall

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear? By Bill Martin

Where Polar Bear? By Nico Hercules

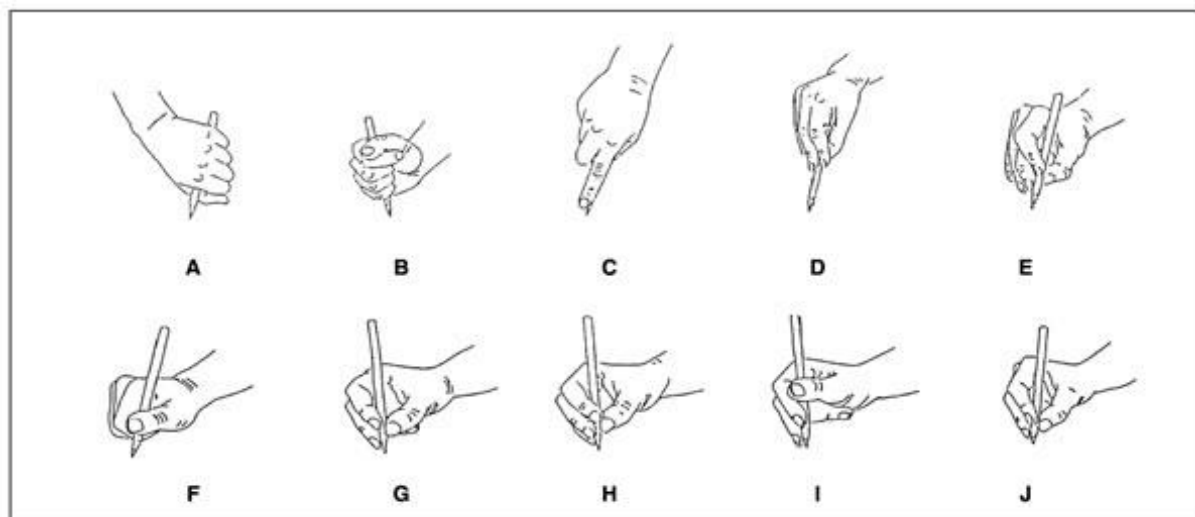
If your child does Phonics with Mrs Wall, the focus this half term is initial sounds and blending. The children will be playing games to help them tune into the first sound of a word. A favourite is often Bertha Bus. The children sing: "Bertha the bus goes to the zoo, what does she see as she passes through?". Bertha might see a horse, hamster, hippopotamus and snake. The children then give the animal which has the odd sound.

Blending concentrates on pushing the sounds of a word together to hear the whole word. Children always love Metal Mike when blending is introduced. This is a robot who is fed letters (sounding out the word, eg c-a-t) and then produces a picture of what word he has eaten. The children race Mike to blend the sounds!

If your child does Phonics with Mrs Bowen, the focus this half term is letter recognition and segmenting. Usually children particularly enjoy playing musical chairs for letter recognition, we place a letter on each chair, when the music stops the children find a chair and say what sound they are sat on! Simple, yet very effective! We do a similar thing with Twister too! The skill of segmenting is often harder. This is when the children are given a whole word (spoken, they are not expected to read it) and are required to sound it out. For this we play 'hop on a dot', where the children jump on three dots to spell a word. We also use slinkies with CVC words written on them. The children pull them out to segment the word and push them together to blend.

## Physical Development

During this half term we are going to focus on fine motor development. We are introducing a 'Leave a Message' area at the mark making area. This is to encourage the children to use mark making tools. They will be able to leave a drawing or 'written' message for their friends, by placing their work in the container with their friend's name on. This will also promote early reading skills. The picture below details the stages of development for writing. For those children entering Reception in September 2018, our aim is the final picture by Summer.



A = radial cross palmar grasp; B = palmar supinate grasp; C = digital pronate grasp, only index finger extended; D = brush grasp, E = grasp with extended fingers; F = cross thumb grasp; G = static tripod grasp; H = four fingers grasp; I = lateral tripod grasp; J = dynamic tripod grasp.

**Figure 2 - Pencil grip postures<sup>16</sup>**

For children to hold pens and pencils correctly, the strength in their fingers must be well developed. To allow for this to happen, children need lots of opportunities to work with smaller resources. Our pre-planned 'busy bee' tasks (which all children complete over the week) will focus on this. This includes: building a marshmallow snowman using tooth picks, threading doilies and making snowflakes from lolly and match sticks. If you

want to support your child at home, we highly recommend working with: scissors, duplo/lego and anything they can bend/ stretch (playdough, pipecleaners).

## Mathematics



This half term we are focusing on addition, in particular saying/ giving one or two more. We have enhanced our core provisions in the class room to help the children with this. Our imaginative area now has an Artic Ark, where artic animals can be added two by two. Our water area now includes a fishing game, where children can catch fish to feed to the hungry penguin- adding them one by one until he is full! There are also various 'busy bee' tasks planned to support this, for example grouping and classifying Artic Animals according to how many legs they have.

## Understanding the World

Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on the Season Winter. As well as teaching facts about Winter, we will be using the season to explore experiments related to change. The children will be freezing water into different shapes and then exploring how best to make it melt: hammer, hands or heat? We will also be adding salt, food colouring and paint to water/ ice to observe how it changes- and then how this changes over time.

## What can I do to help/enhance my child's learning this term?

### Play, Learn and Children Together Books (PACT Books)

These books are for home and school communication. Mrs Wall will include a PACT task each week for the children to complete at home. This will be related to what the children are learning about in class. There will also be a news slip, so you are always informed of our teaching and learning at school. The books are given out on a Monday and collected in on a Friday. Please feel free to include any information from home that you would like to share with us in these books. This could be something your child is enjoying doing at home or information about a new achievement. The more we know about your child, the better we can provide for them!

As always, if there is anything you think we need to know about your child please come and speak to us. Our door is always open! We appreciate that drop and pick up times can be quite hectic. Mrs Wall is in school from 7.30am each day and would happily take a phone call or an early visit into the classroom. She is available most evenings after school, except for Tuesdays.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Wall, Mrs Bowen and Mrs Wilson.