



Longleaze Pre-School & Nursery

Term 4 February 2019

Welcome back!!!

Valentines Craft winners - are Theo - from Seal building, Harry G from Glenton, and Tom from Llewellyn. Congratulations and thank you to everyone that participated - Skylar, Toby and Noah, Lilly, Nastasia, Charlie M, Lola, Eden and Emmie!

'Sponsored Squidge' - good luck and thank you to all who are squishing as many bits and bobs into a raisin box - the monies raised will go to continuing to improve our outdoor area.

Funds that we have raised so far have gone towards a 'communication friendly, covered area in the Llewellyn space, we are waiting with anticipation for it to arrive, and can't wait to see the children enjoying it! Thank you again to all who support our fundraising events!

Goodbye - sadly Trish will be retiring at Easter, she has bought a wealth of ideas, activities, fun and laughter to our setting- and she will be greatly missed! ☹

Safeguarding - a quick reminder that our Designated safeguarding lead is Emma, and Deputy designated leads are Tracey J and Hayley. Our nominated committee safeguarding person is Barbara S. if you require any further information please do not hesitate to ask.

Ofsted - our report is now available online or hard copies are in each building. A big thank you to everyone involved!

Home learning and Reading packs - please return these when you have finished with them (although preferably for no longer than a week), so that other children can enjoy them. Thank you.

Letters and Sounds afternoon - many thanks to those of you that attended last term. We will be holding an additional letters and sounds afternoon in term 5 or 6, but please feel free to ask any member of staff if you have any questions.

Blue/books (home/school diaries) - originally these were intended for children who had a communication difficulty or a childminder. Over time this has developed into every child having general comments made daily in their book. The purpose was for the book to be a two way means of communication, celebrating Wow moments or sharing other relevant news. As our sessions have got busier and our numbers increased our team have found that they are spending an unwelcome amount of time documenting sessions. As I am sure you will agree this time would be much better spent teaching and learning with your child. Also some days there is just not enough time! ☹ We will continue to reflect with the children on their day, and encourage them to share and communicate this with you (obviously there will be exceptions to the rule). Soooooo..... beginning this term, we will be returning to using the books as a medium to celebrate and share achievements and important information. A brief update will be displayed for each building. Please speak to a member of staff if you have any questions.

Our topic this term is 'Spring Animals' which was chosen with the children, following discussions with them on what they were interested in and also based on observations of their play. This theme is of relevance and interest to the children and so they are more likely to be engaged and involved in the activities and events offered because of their heightened enthusiasm!

Our focused activities are designed for all ages and levels of development; however our pre-school children are particularly encouraged to participate, although some of the activities are specifically designed for our younger children.

Our adult led, focused activities are based around the areas of learning in the EYFS. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected.

Some of the activities we will be offering this term include;

Personal, social and emotional development-

Self-confidence and self-awareness: 'Busy bees' - enjoying the responsibility of carrying out small tasks, and valuing the praise they receive for accomplishing these tasks; 'Favourite farm animals' - choosing their favourite farm animals, building a tower as results are tallied and comparing sizes of towers, number of favourites. Discussing reasoning behind favourites.

Making relationships: 'Exploring spring animals in the tuff tray' - investigating textures together - taking turns, playing happily alongside each other; 'Working together'- Demonstrating friendly behaviour working together to 'fix it' - put together a large puzzle - working as a team - taking turns to be the leader.

Physical development:

Moving and handling: 'Concertina Rabbits' - using and handling different tools to make a rabbit, particularly focusing on cutting skills; 'Spring animal dot to dot - beginning to show a preference for a dominant hand, improving their pencil grip and skills; 'Squeezing through the Spring Spider Web' - moving freely and with confidence, being aware of their bodies and the way in which they move.

Health and self-care: 'Rosie's Walk obstacle course' - focusing on observing and noticing the changes in their bodies as they are active; home learning -'Caring for our pre-school Pet' - recording what they have been doing and how they have been caring for our pet.

The Fundamental Movement Skills that we will be looking at this term will be Catch and Jump for height.

We are very lucky to have use of many of the schools facilities, including the school hall and the school field. Twice a week we have PE sessions (Pre-school children) in the school hall **on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings**, we encourage the children to change into a simple PE kit - shorts and T-shirt, promoting their independence and self-care. Please ensure that all PE kit is labelled! They do not need any special footwear as we do PE in bare feet.

Communication and Language-understanding;

Listening and attention: BLAST Activities (boosting language auditory skills and talking) -'Animal Sounds' distinguishing and matching different sounds; 'Old Macdonald which noise game' - promoting listening and attention skills; 'Story time' - joining in with repeated refrains.

Understanding: 'Playdoh animals - following instructions; 'A Squash and a Squeeze' - following the story, focusing on the children's attention, their predictions and responses to questions.

Literacy:

Reading: encouraging the children to handle books appropriately and with care at all times; 'Spell my Name' - using the spring chicken to find the correct alphabet eggs to spell out their name.

Writing: 'Painting a picture of their favourite spring animal' - talking about the marks they are making; 'Grassy Fields Sensory Writing Tray' - encouraging children to give meaning to the marks that they make- focusing on pencil grip / control.

Letters and Sounds activities this term will include activities from Aspect 4 – rhythm and rhyme -tuning onto sounds – the main purpose being to experience and appreciate rhythm and rhyme and to develop awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech and from Aspect 5 – alliteration, for example; Rhyming Silly Soup; Rhyming books; I spy names; Bertha goes to the Zoo; Tony the Train's busy day; Rhyming Bingo. We will also be enjoying lots of Jolly Phonics activities introducing Tig Tog the Sound Dog.

Mathematics-

Number: 'hatching Chicks' - matching quantity of eggs to numerals, putting the requested amount of eggs into the nest; 'How many spring animals?' counting and comparing quantities of animals and using tally charts to record amounts.

Shape, space and measure: 'Spring Animals' - sorting, moving and categorising; 'Feeding the Animals'- exploring weight and capacity using different size bowls and comparing amounts of food.

Understanding the World-

The world: this term we will be celebrating, St David's day, Shrove Tuesday, St Patrick's day, Mother's day and Easter! We will also be planting beans - talking about and beginning to show understanding of growth, decay and changes over time. If you enjoy gardening, and would be happy to give us a much needed hand, we would love to introduce more gardening opportunities for our children.

People and communities: 'comparing our eye and hair colour with friends and family, becoming aware of what makes us unique and talking about similarities and difference in relation to friends and family; 'Spring animals - Homes and habitats' - talking about their homes and showing an interest in what others say about their homes, noting similarities and differences; home learning-'Spring animals - Mystery box' - describing what's in the box for family members - giving clues and asking questions.

Expressive Arts and design-

Exploring and using media and materials: the children have many opportunities to self - select craft activities throughout each day; painting self-portraits; daffodil painting; junk modelling animals; Mother's day cards; 'Muddy Pigs' - exploring and showing understanding that different media and materials can be combined to create new effects.

Being imaginative: 'Spring animal role play' - making masks and playing alongside others cooperatively, engaging in the same theme, introducing storylines into their play; 'Not a Box' - encouraging children to use their imagination, pretending that one object represents another.

Home learning Hot spot!

Talking Tip; Show your child how to build sentences. Help your child to use more words by adding what is said eg. "ball" can be expanded to "throw the ball" or "the ball has gone".

Did you know.... Children learn to talk in stages - they don't get everything right the first time! ☺

Talking Tip;

Give yourself a permit to play! Try to have a 5 minute 'special time' with your child each day. play with toys your child has chosen; look at pictures; explore outdoors etc. you will be creating valuable moments in which your child can learn from you.

Did you know.....

Children learn to talk by watching and listening to adults and exploring the world around them!

For further information on how to help your child's speech, language and communication skills development go to www.talkingpoint.org.uk. ☺ **Have fun!** ☺

A few reminders!

Please label all of your child's clothing, lunchboxes etc.

Please ensure all your contact details are correct.

Please ensure that you inform us if there are any changes as to who is collecting your child.

Please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate clothes for the weather including wellies and that they have a change of clothes, nappies, wet wipes and nappy bags in their bag.

Please return - washed - any borrowed clothes!

THANK YOU!

QUICK CHECKER

WEEK ONE - 25th Feb - 1st March

We promote the Jolly Phonics, introducing the sounds that letters make. You may have noticed your child distinguishing different sounds, in particular sounds that they hear around them and the initial sound of their name, please encourage them to do this at home and as you are out and about!

St David's Day - 1st March

WEEK TWO - 4th - 8th March

If your child would like to bring in any rhyming books, we can share them at circle time.

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) 5th March

World Book Day 7th March - dress up as their favourite book character! Each child will receive a book token and a sticker!

WEEK THREE - 11th - 15th March

St Patrick's Day - 17th March

Please ensure your child's 'Sponsored Squidge' box and sponsor money are returned by Friday 15th March.

WEEK FOUR - 18th - 22nd March

Parent consultation week. Please speak to your child's keyworker to arrange a ten minute appointment.

WEEK FIVE - 25th - 29th March

Mother's Day - 31st March

WEEK SIX - 1st - 5th April

Easter Egg hunt - 2.30pm Wednesday 3rd April.

Spring sing a long at Ridgeway Friday 5th April. More details to follow.

We will also be performing our songs in session on Tuesday 2nd April at 2.40pm and Thursday 4th April at 11.40am. You are welcome to come and watch your child if they are in sessions at this time. If they don't attend on either of these days please let me know and we will try to arrange a time for you to come in and enjoy the singing!

LAST DAY OF TERM - 5th April

BACK TO SCHOOL TUESDAY 23RD APRIL

Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the BP Garage and Best One for their continued support with fundraising.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter- please do not hesitate to speak to myself or a member of staff at any time if you have any worries, questions or concerns.

We recognise and value that as parents you are the main educators in your child's life, and most knowledgeable about them, we would appreciate any ideas or contributions you may have and welcome you to be as involved in your child's learning as you can.

