

# Early Years Newsletter



Friday 6th October 2017

King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2017-2018

Issue 4

## NURSERY NEWS

### 'Favourite Stories and Nursery Rhymes'

We are continuing along the theme of favourite stories and have begun to read and talk about 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children have been very engrossed in many fun based activities to promote and enhance their learning and development.



Construction has been a theme for this week and the builder's construction site in our outdoor area has been very popular.



Children have been working together and helping each other construct houses made of straw, sticks and bricks in our large builder's tray. The children have dressed in hard hats, and high viz jackets while building their structures and deciding

which houses are the strongest before trying to blow them down!

The children have also shown wonderful creativity while designing their very own 'piggy' biscuits! They decorated their biscuits beautifully, using decorations and icing. Whilst spreading the icing, the children showed fantastic physical skills and they also made super choices when selecting which food items they wanted to use to create their pig. There were some super discussions about different colours, shapes, sizes and space. For example, 'Can I fit another marshmallow on my biscuit?'



During our Forest Fun session the children have been once again exploring the natural environment and have also thoroughly enjoyed counting and learning about numbers while playing 'What's the time Mr Wolf'.



## Library Visits

We have introduced visits to our school library this week. Each group has their own time slot to visit the library and spend quality quiet time looking at books and stories. The children listened to stories in a group and then had the opportunity to explore the library and independently find their own favourite stories. This is also a lovely time to reinforce and reflect on our story of the week. One little boy came back to Nursery and said 'That was amazing!'

## Parents' Evening

Just a reminder that Nursery Parents' Evening is being held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October. This will be an opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into the new term and discuss any queries you may have. Thank you.

## RECEPTION NEWS

### Promoting independence in Reception

In Reception we are supporting our children to be independent when dressing and undressing, eating and with hygiene and personal care. They have become so much more independent in the short time they have spent with us so far, we are impressed! In the classroom we encourage all children to take ownership and care of their own belongings by checking their name tags and placing items in their correct area. During PE, Games and Swimming sessions children are feeling a great sense of pride that they can dress and undress with less support now. This independence gives children confidence and a strong feeling of responsibility.



If you wish to reinforce this at home could you please support the children to feed themselves at mealtimes, using a knife and fork. Also, independent changing into their school uniforms in the mornings (as much as possible, we know how tricky the top buttons are!). Finally, to minimise the lost property items, show children where their name tags are in their clothes and remind them to check items of clothing before putting them on.

### **Forest Fun**

The whole of Reception had an absolutely brilliant time at the Memorial Park for our first Forest Fun session. We played 'Follow the leader' to find a suitable base camp, then introduced some safety games to highlight the boundaries, collected buckets of leaves to sort in numerous ways and had a leaf fight! Despite these activities being adult initiated, we allowed the children to take the lead on how they would be completed. This helps to develop team work, improves communication and boosts self-esteem. Important life skills! The children also had time to just explore their natural environment and initiate their own learning. It is amazing how children use their imagination! We are looking forward to next week!



### **Reminders**

-Could we request that your child's morning snack be fruit or a small healthy fruit based snack only.

-Each week we have items of children's clothing that go missing. We would be grateful if you could please routinely check labels on your child's clothing to ensure they do not belong to someone else.