The importance of learning through play

Play is one of the main ways in which children learn. It helps to build self-confidence by giving a child a sense of his or her own abilities and to feel good about themselves. Because it is fun, children often become very absorbed in what they are doing. In turn, this helps them develop the ability to concentrate. Providing children with a range of playthings will help them learn in a number of ways:

- Sand and water play can be an early introduction to science and maths, e.g., learning that water is fluid, not solid, and that it can be measured in different sized containers.
- Playing with dough, drawing and painting pictures, dressing up and playing with dolls can encourage creativity, imagination and expression of feelings.
- Building blocks, jigsaws and shape sorters can help with recognising different shapes and sizes, putting things in order and developing logic.
- Playing ball games, dancing, running, climbing all help to develop body movement, strength, flexibility and co-ordination skills.
- Games help with turn taking, sharing and social interactions.
- Singing, playing simple music instruments help to develop rhythm, listening and hearing.

It is important that learning is fun at this age. It needs to be about doing things with them that they like. You can encourage reading at home by reading to and with them. Looking at pictures together will help children make sense of the world. It is also good to talk to them, about everyday things while you are cooking, cleaning or walking. This will give you a chance to teach them how things work and they will be able to ask you questions. Get ready for lots of "why’s?"

Red paint in the hair? Blue paint on the jeans? Sand in the shoes?
Coloured water on the favourite shirt? White socks that look brown?
Sleeves a little bit damp?

YOUR CHILD probably...
worked with a friend, solved a problem, created a masterpiece
negotiated a difference, learned a new skill, had a great time and
developed new language skills
Library Reminders

Just a reminder of the days which your child’s class changes library books.

Apple Tree - Thursdays
Cherry Tree - Monday or Thursday
Blossom - Monday or Wednesday

In addition, we will be sending a nursery rhyme or song home for you to practise with your child every Thursday. This will help your child begin to show awareness of rhyme/alliteration and will help to recognise rhyme in spoken language which is a key aspect of their development.

If children show interest in the books from the book library in the sunspace, parents are welcome to borrow them, just let a member of staff know.

Festivals and Celebrations

This term we will be celebrating Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday, Holi, Mother’s Day and Easter.

We will be planning activities for the children to help them learn about different cultures, customs and celebrations.

If you would like to share the ways in which you celebrate at home with all the children,

Apple Tree and Cherry Tree Class only
Read, Write Inc update

In Apple and Cherry Tree class we have been reviewing the sounds that were learnt in the Autumn term; m, a, s, t, d, i, n, p

We are beginning to blend these learnt sounds together to form words; at, sat, mat, sad, mad, dad, on, pan, pin, dog, it, pig, in, tip, and, got, sit, an.

We also will be teaching the next two sets of sounds, a sound a week;

g, o, c, k, u, b, f, e, l, h.

To ensure we are working in conjunction with you, we would like you to watch the following video of the correct phonetic sounds.

Please visit www.ruthmiskin.com
Click on downloads and videos
In the search box type in sound pronunciation guide
Apple Tree Class

We are going to be exploring ice and seasons in more depth by carrying out scientific investigations. We will explore different ways to make ice melt such as bicarbonate soda to melt frozen white vinegar! We will also be learning more about capacity using resources such as bird seeds to pour and scoop. We will investigate floating and sinking and a range of number problems using a variety of tools. For example, we may stick a number of buttons and beads down to make a picture; then match the amount to the correct numeral. We will also be ordering items and numbers from smallest to largest to help us learn to count and differentiate between size. In our play, we will use as many natural objects as possible such as wood and mud to increase our knowledge of the world around us. We may even collect items from our special forest area! We will continue to practice recognising and writing our names in fun, malleable ways.

Cherry Tree Class

Last term we observed that the children showed great interest in construction and building therefore this term we are extending and development their interest in this. We will be looking at different types of buildings, structures, properties of materials, houses and homes and linking this with the story of The Three Little Pigs.

In Cherry Tree we have been teaching the children how to use tools safely. We are encouraging them to chop their own fruit at snack time using tools such as butter knives, pizza cutters and peelers. Once secure in using tools safely we will introduce woodwork tools for them to use such as saws, screwdrivers, hammers and nails. All of these activities will be with the supervision of the adults in the room.

Blossom Class

This term, Blossom Class will be exploring nature in our forest. We will take regular trips to the forest area, collecting any objects we find for the children to use for their creative work. The forest area provides lots of opportunities for the children to learn. We will be exploring objects that are ‘big’ and ‘small’ whilst developing our counting and sorting skills.

We will also be focusing on the children’s sharing and turn taking skills. Small group games support children to wait their turn and develop their understanding of sharing.
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Many Thanks

Nursery Team

Spring time at Nursery

In the spring each class will be learning about life-cycles and Easter celebrations. We will watch caterpillars turn into butterflies and watch chicken eggs hatch! If anyone has frog spawn in their gardens when it gets warmer; we would be grateful if you could bring some in for us to look after.

Clothing reminder

As it is cold outside please could we remind parents to ensure that all children have a waterproof winter coat, hat, scarf and gloves as children explore and play in the garden in all weather.

Five Minute Maths

As well as doing phonics, we will be delivering 5 minute of direct maths teaching every day. Our main focuses this term will be counting using 1:1 correspondence, early addition and learning about the properties of shapes. We use props and real life objects where possible to making learning meaningful for the children.

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 29th January - Early Years Chinese New Year celebration
- Thursday 13th February - PTA Valentines cake sale
- 17th - 21st February - Half Term
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Thursday 2nd April - Nursery Easter cake sale
- Friday 3rd April - End of Term

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Many Thanks

Nursery Team