



Squirrels' Nursery Newsletter

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to a new school year! It is a pleasure to be working with your children this year and we have many exciting activities planned for them.

We hope that you find this newsletter useful and informative. Please feel free to come and speak to any member of staff or email us if you need additional information or have any concerns/questions.

The school website (www.tattenhallpark.cheshire.sch.uk) is a useful place to learn more about the nursery as well as the school. Weekly newsletters are put on the school website in the parent section (every Friday) and give information about forthcoming weekly events. We also have a section about Squirrels class with useful links and documents.

The start of the term

Our first topic will be a focus on "All About Me". This will be running alongside a mini topic which will be "The Three Little Pigs".

Please can the children bring in two photographs to support their learning? One needs to be of their family and the other of their house. We want to encourage them to share their experiences with us in Nursery.

Morning routine

Nursery children will use the nursery door which is located on the long side of the school near the park play equipment for drop off and pick up. Gates open at 8:40 and close at 8:55.

Staffing

Working within the Nursery setting are the following staff: Mrs Ellam, class teacher and Mrs Heath, teaching assistant. Mrs Edwards covers Mrs Ellam's non-contact time on a Thursday afternoon.

Information about the curriculum in Nursery

Your child is working within the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage). This stage helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. In Nursery we aim to provide a happy, active, exciting, fun and secure experience for them.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

- Communication and language;
- Physical development; and
- Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

- Literacy;
- Mathematics;
- Understanding the world; and
- Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

These three areas are also so important for your child as they learn from home. We want the children to be:

- Playing and exploring: Engagement - Finding out and exploring - Playing with what they know - Being willing to 'have a go'.
- Active learning: Motivation - Being involved and concentrating - Keeping trying - Enjoying achieving what they set out to do.
- Creating and thinking critically: Thinking - Having their own ideas - Making links.

How you can help with your child's learning

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long-lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school.

Try to make the time throughout the week to do some of the following things with your child as it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner:

Activities:

- Share a book with your child, looking at the pictures and talking about the story - what might happen next? Who is in the story? Where does the story take place - is it in a wood or under the sea? etc. Annotate a story which the child has told you, make it into a book for them to illustrate.
- Counting - counting up and down the stairs. Recognising 2D shapes in the house and talking about them etc.
- Sing some familiar nursery rhymes, you could also add in some actions.
- It is important for your child to develop their fine motor skills. Encourage them to use child scissors to cut out and stick pictures from magazines, help you to peg out the washing, make something with Lego etc.
- Find out about and explore the natural world - Go on a nature walk and ask the children to record what they see (could be a drawing, a rubbing etc), dig in the garden looking for worms, collect different twigs - comparing their shapes, length etc.
- Cook / bake together - talking about what you are doing, talk about number of scoops etc.
- Use the weather - shadows - chalking round their shadow, rain - puddles...jumping in them and seeing the splashes! snow - building snowmen and exploring ice, wind - making a kite, flying a kite, sun - find out about the sun.
- Talk to your child at every opportunity - e.g. what you are doing that day, asking them about what they have made, how you are making tea (I am chopping, mixing, stirring) etc.
- Mark making opportunities - writing lists, letters, annotating pictures, chalking on the patio, water and large paintbrushes to mark make on the wall outside etc.

Tapestry

If your child is a new starter, we ask that you send in your consent form containing your email address so that you can be added to our online learning journey. This is where you will be able to upload any photos, videos and activities which you have been doing at home which will support our knowledge of the child in nursery. It is also a wonderful way of communicating with you about your child's learning at home and they love to share with the other children what they have been busy doing. Once we have your email you will receive an activation email, please follow the link and it

should guide you through. If you have any problems please contact a member of staff and we will do our best to support you.

Spare clothes

Just a gentle reminder to pack some spare clothes (including a couple of pairs of underwear) for your child, although they may be toilet trained, accidents do still happen from time to time. If your child happens to grow out of their old underwear- we are always grateful for clean spares!

We also ask that the children bring in a pair of wellies which can be kept in school so that we can use the outside area whatever the weather.

We hope that you have found this useful and it has inspired you to support your child's learning at home. We are aware however, that you are not trained teachers, that you too are busy working and alongside these have many other challenges of your own. We are here to support you, so please contact us if we can help in any way.

Kind regards,

Mrs Ellam, Mrs Heath and Mrs Edwards



Mrs Ellam: aellam@tattenhallpark.cheshire.sch.uk