



EYFS Newsletter

Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception)



Spring Term / Part 1 and 2 / 28/03/2017

DEAR PARENTS & CARERS,

This is our second EYFS newsletter of the year. We hope you enjoy reading what your children have been up to in school.

If you have any suggestions or comments please do speak to me, a member of EYFS staff or drop a message in our new 'Suggestion Boxes' (see end of newsletter for more details). I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new parents and children who have recently joined us in the Early Years (EYFS) at Carlton School. It has been a lovely opportunity settling in your child and getting to know you all. As we continue to settle we will share learning together and support you with your child's first steps to school.

Caroline Hayes

Nursery Teacher & EYFS Leader

Forest School

The children in Nursery and Reception have been going to Forest School on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. All our children will have the opportunity to go to Forest school as groups rotate. The children have been learning how to use tools on site and have established an understanding of using tools safely. The children have experienced the forest school fires and have enjoyed eating and drinking around the fire. Thank you to Nursery parents who joined the session on Friday.



Stay and Play

Thank you to all of the parents who have come along to 'Stay and Play' on Fridays this term. Stay and Play is a lovely weekly workshop-based session. Parents can play alongside their child in the joint session; discuss any ideas or worries with our family support worker - Tracey during the parent only session over a cup of tea.

Nursery

Saying good-bye...

We are sadly saying good-bye to Heidi who has been part of our EYFS team since last June. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work. She has been an inspiration to the children and will be greatly missed. We wish her well for the future and we welcome our new Nursery teacher, Cara, who has just joined our EYFS team.



First Half of Spring Term

In Nursery we have been working around the topic **Rhythm and Rhyme** which has incorporated learning about jungle animals. We have designed our own jungle using natural materials, which has been so much fun for the children. They have been telling their own stories and have explored jungle walks with torches and binoculars looking for various animals.

We have enjoyed talking in small groups about the various textures of the animals and the different patterns and features they have. We have also made our own feely boxes which have supported the children to learn new descriptive words.

We have been learning new animal songs and have used various musical instruments to support our dance and movement sessions.

Our core books '*Walking through the Jungle*' and '*Tanka Tanka Skunk*' have helped us to learn about rhythm and rhyme. We have been making our own books creating our own stories through drawing and writing, linking in language from the core stories.

Second Half of Spring Term

In the second half term our topic was **Up on the Farm**, so we went on visits to the local farm to find out about various farm animals. The core books were '*The Three Billy Goats Gruff*' and '*The Little Red Hen*'.

We also watched our own chickens hatching from the 'Happy Chick Company' which was a very exciting time for the children. They arrived on the second week back from half term.

We would appreciate your continuing support on upcoming school trips and encourage you to visit the Nursery regularly to see all the activities your child is engaging in.

Coming up in Summer Term

Next term, we will be looking at insects and growing plants.



Little Mandarin Classes

During the Spring Term, Nursery and Reception children have been learning Mandarin (the official Chinese language). A mandarin teacher comes every week to teach the children words and songs in Mandarin. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these lessons and benefitted from the access to a new culture.

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Reception

First Half of Spring Term

In Reception this half of term, we have been focusing on the topic of **The Big Bad....** Our core books have been *'The Bear Hunt'* and *'The Three Little Pigs'*. The children tried different materials to build houses for the three little pigs. They weighed these materials and tried to decide which would be best suited for making a house.

Reception class have made a cave in the classroom and the children regularly explore the area with a torch. They have been researching facts about bears and other forest animals.

Second Half of Spring Term

Our topic in the second half term was **Traditional Tales**. Our core books were *'No dinner'* and *'The Enormous Turnip'*.

In this second half term, children have been using our edible garden to look for three dimensional objects, watch the plants grow as Spring unfolds. The children went on trips to the farm to see the animals and talk about traditional tales with animals. We were very lucky to see the chicks hatch in the Nursery and watch them grow for the first few weeks. Children made Easter baskets and tried cooking different dishes.

Using our core books, children were encouraged to retell the story of the Enormous Turnip. We also made masks inspired by the story "No dinner".

Special events: For World Book Day, we dressed up and talked about our favourite books. For Pancake Day, we made pancakes and ate them with lemon and honey.



Kayleigh & Caroline
Class Teachers

To develop writing skills, the children experimented with writing on different surfaces.



For World Book Day, we dressed up as our favourite book characters.



Suggestions & Comments

Outside the two reception classes and nursery we have put up **suggestion boxes** please feel free to take a slip and write any ideas concerns you may have, we always like to hear the parents' views and welcome feedback. Alternatively, you can speak to the class teacher or me. *Caroline Hayes*