



ST. MARY MAGDALENE

C OF E SCHOOL

WOOLWICH CAMPUS

*Excellence through innovation,
founded in faith since 1840.*

FEDERATION EXECUTIVE CO-HEADTEACHERS

Mrs Claire Harrison and Mrs Victoria Wainwright

HEADTEACHER

Mrs Diane Savva-Brown

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Mrs Ranj Badesha

January, 2024

Happy New Year and Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

The children in Monet class were very excited to come back after a lovely Christmas holiday. It was wonderful to watch them settle really smoothly back into routine, and they are as ever very enthused to learn and prosper! I hope you all enjoyed the Winter break and are looking forward to hopefully brighter days this Spring!

Please take time to read this newsletter which tells you what we will be learning in Nursery this term as well as advice on how you can support learning at home.

Amazing Animals and Traditional Tales: Over the course of the term, we will be learning about the fascinating world of animals and their different habitats. Through singing animal songs and reading a range of fiction and non-fiction books, we will learn to name some animals and their babies, describe how they look and adapt to their environment, how they help us and how we can look after them.

In the second half of the term, we will be reading and learning about some favourite fairy tales like "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and "The Three Little Pigs". Children will be encouraged to engage with the stories enabling them to learn new vocabulary and deepen their comprehension of the texts.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development: Children will continue to develop their sense of themselves as unique and special. We will discuss how we can look after our bodies to stay healthy and fit: eating well, personal hygiene, and staying active. They will also be encouraged to try new things and overcome challenges to develop perseverance as well as a growth mindset. We will model and practise using positive language to encourage our peers to try their very best and achieve goals. This will lead us to have conversations about how we can set targets for ourselves and plan how to accomplish them.

Literacy: As we try to immerse children in the animal topic in the first half of the term, we will have a focus book "The Little Red Hen". We will read the story together, learn new vocabulary about farm animals, and use the text to develop our story telling skills. Various activities will be offered in the indoor and outdoor provision to enable children to develop language needed to create and re-create stories.

In Spring 2, we will be reading "The Gingerbread Man" as a focus book and engaging with activities like book - making and the puppet theatre to further develop their imagination and story-telling skills. Opportunities for children to practise mark-making will be available daily in the indoor and outdoor provisions. Children will also be encouraged daily to trace over the letters of their name.

Reading: Please try to read with your child daily either the book sent from Nursery or books of your own choice. We encourage you to regularly visit the local library and expose your child to different literature. There are a variety of books in the nursery, and you can change your child's book as often as you wish. Also, we truly love you to attend Early Bird Reading every Friday morning between 8:40 am and 9:00 am. Children will learn to recognise and read their name through self-registration.

Physical Development: P.E and dance take place throughout the week. Your child will be encouraged to exercise every day, during their time in Nursery, with a variety of PE equipment, bikes and apparatus for your child to use. Please make sure your child wears suitable shoes/trainers with velcro fasteners. Please note for your own child's safety, hooped earrings are not to be worn. Only studs are allowed as stated in the school prospectus.

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London

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Mathematics: Children will continue to practise counting accurately up to 5 and if they can up to 10. They will be exposed to various activities to support their understanding of the concept of numbers and how to count and represent numbers accurately. There will be a special focus on numbers 3, 4 and 5. Children will learn to subitise and explore the composition of these numbers. Later in the term, we will be describing and comparing objects (short, shorter, small, big, bigger, tall and taller) as well as exploring capacity.

Expressive Art & Design: Children will have access to a range of art materials to explore how to create paintings, pictures, collage or 3D models. They will learn how to select and use resources that will add effects to their work.

Things you can do at home: Talk to your child about their five senses and experiment with them by tasting new food or going for a walk to listen to natural sounds. Encourage them to look at non-fiction books about animals and try to share some fun facts with them. Please also have numbers 1-5 displayed somewhere at home, perhaps on the fridge or in your child's room and encourage them to recognise and represent them. It would be also fantastic if you can support your child to start tracing over their names to support them with letter-formation.

We are working with the children to write their names. Names should be written with a capital letter at the start and all other letters should be lower case. To help, it will be best if they are holding their pencil near the tip as shown in Fig 4.

Diagrams showing developing pencil grasp



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

Gentle Reminders:

- 1) Please label your child's coat & other belongings clearly.
- 2) We would be grateful if you could look after any books sent home from Nursery. Remember to bring back your child's book every Monday to be changed.
- 3) We will be starting Forest School very soon. We kindly remind you to send in a pair of labelled welly boots if you haven't.
- 4) Spring half-term: Monday 12th February 2023 - Friday 16th February 2023.

We value your continued support from home with your child's learning and we are always available to speak with you if you have any concerns or issues that you wish to discuss about your child.

Kind Regards,
Mrs Bdeir and Mrs Roa

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