



Nursery Newsletter

January 2024

Happy New Year, we hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas break. We would like to thank you for your generosity during the last week of term, the Christmas cards and gifts we received were much appreciated and very kind. Thank you for your ongoing contributions on Tapestry, the children really do enjoy sharing things from home and it often provides prompts for discussion. Lots of the children will make links to familiar locality, such as Sander's Park and this often sparks child-initiated conversation which also builds relationships and friendships.

Reminder to book your Spring Term Parents' Meetings; These take place in person in school. Each appointment will be for ten minutes. To book an appointment on the appropriate day we have a simple online booking system. Please go to <https://meadowsfirst.parentseveningsystem.co.uk>



Tuesday 6th February 2024

Thursday 8th February 2024

We are introducing a new topic this half term and the children will be exploring marvellous machines, materials and more linked with citizenship, critical and creative thinking. Our key text for this half term is Rosie Revere Engineer. We will be exploring our global citizenship in relation to materials and waste during this topic. After much time exploring shape, last half term we will be developing numerical confidence and understanding. We will also be making STEAM links throughout this half term, building upon our confident and creative critical thinkers (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths).



Linked to our materials topic, we used mosaics and five frames to extend our number sense.

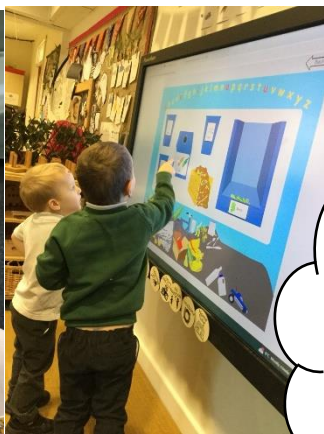


Mathematics, 3-4 Years:

Develop fast recognition of up to 3 objects, without having to count them individually ('subitising').
Recite numbers past 5.
Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5.
Know that the last number reached when counting a small set of objects tells you how many there are in total ('cardinal principle').
Show 'finger numbers' up to 5.
Link numerals and amounts: for example, showing the right number of objects to match the numeral, up to 5.

Communication, 3-4 Years

Use a wider range of vocabulary.



Understanding the World, 3-4 Years:

Understand the key features of the life cycle of a plant and an animal. Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things.



We will be going out to Forest School each Monday Morning from next week. Please send your child in warm outdoor clothing every Monday, to ensure they will be comfortable spending the morning outside. Most children have a set of waterproofs in school and a set of wellies, thank you. We will rotate the Forest School day each half term to ensure all children have the opportunity to visit during the year.



Thank you for all of those of you who participated in the reverse advent calendar to donate a large Christmas donation to the foodbank. Catshill foodbank have written to you, to thank you for your kindness;

Dear Meadows Nursery,

We just wanted to say thank you to the children in your class for the food donation you bought in this morning, it is very much appreciated. We hope you all have a happy Christmas and New Year.

Kind Regards

Jean & the foodbank team
Catshill Baptist Foodbank
Milton Rd. Catshill. B61 0NA

As the weather turns colder, please ensure every child has a warm and waterproof coat, we do go out in all weathers. You may also wish to provide hats, scarves and gloves. Please could these be named, this helps both the children and staff in knowing which set belongs to. Thank you for joining our Festive Forest School Session too!



Communication & Language

- Have conversations with me about things that I am interested in. Encourage me to keep talking by nodding, smiling and making comments.
- Introduce new words when we are playing, eating or when we are out and about. Explain what new words mean to me.
- Talk to me about things that have already happened and what might happen soon.
- Play listening games with me such as 'Simon Says'.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Give me tasks to carry out, e.g. washing my plate after snack.
- Model how you manage your own feelings, e.g. "I'm feeling a bit angry so I am going to take a deep breath." Help me to understand why I am feeling sad or frustrated.
- Make a "Calm down jar".

Physical Development

- Help me with dressing but let me do the last steps, e.g. pulling up my zip after you have started it off.
- Give me lots of opportunities to be active and practise running, jumping, balancing, climbing and swinging.
- Encourage me to walk, scoot or bike to my nursery or childminder.

3 & 4-year-olds: how you can help me with my learning?

Mathematics

- Point out the number of things rather than just the names, e.g. "We have two apples!"
- Give me lots of opportunities to count for a real reason and always emphasise the last number - "There are 3 cookies."
- Cut out a large shape from a cereal box (circle, triangle), then cut that shape into 2-4 smaller pieces to make a simple puzzle.
- When we're at the park, use words like 'up', 'under', and 'between' to talk about what we see.
- Make playdough with me.

Understanding the World

- Help me make collections of interesting natural materials, e.g. pebbles, shells.
- Let me explore ice, once it has melted a bit (so I don't get frostbite).
- Plant seeds and bulbs with me.
- Take me to different places such as the library.

Expressive Arts & Design

- Make home-made paintbrushes using clothes pegs and items from around the house and outdoors.
- Join in pretend play with me.
- Give me a cardboard box and some fabric to build a den with.

Thank you for your continued support this half term,

Miss Bailey and the Nursery Team