



WELFORD-ON-AVON PRIMARY SCHOOL
NURSERY NEWS
22nd November 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we have continued to focus our learning on Diwali, the 'Festival of Light'. The children have really enjoyed finding out about how Diwali is celebrated across the world; from lasting five days, cleaning the home, buying new utensils, new clothes, fireworks and lots of sweets and food. They have learnt about the significance of the diva lamp and why Diwali is also known as the Festival of Light.

Within the classroom, the home corner has been decorated and resources linked to Diwali have been added to support children's play. They have been enjoying dressing up in traditional Indian clothing and exploring artefacts during play.

In the creative area, children have made diya lamps using a paper plate, decorating them and placing them in the windowsills.

Continuing with our Diwali theme, the children have learnt about Rangoli patterns and attempted to create their own using different materials and objects. It is fascinating to observe how children approach this activity, as they select materials and arrange them. Some of the patterns observed are already beginning to show an understanding of symmetry.

In maths we have begun to explore pattern. Most children have demonstrated how they can copy a simple two-colour pattern, whilst others are beginning to create their own pattern using two or three colours. We will continue to explore pattern making at greater depth. Our focused number this week has been number 8.

During letters and sounds we have introduced the letters p, i, n, m, d and g. The children have revisited all of the previous sounds to date; s, a, t. You can support your child at home by revisiting the sounds 'little and often' each day.

World Nursery Rhyme Week

This week is World Nursery Rhyme Week which promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education. Over the week, your child has joined in with singing five nursery rhymes. They were Baa, baa black sheep, Down in the jungle, Incey Wincey spider, Row row row your boat and Two little dickie birds.

Nursery rhymes are a fantastic resource for teaching children skills and concepts that are essential for their everyday learning.

1) Improving language and communication skills

Nursery rhymes introduce new words and phrases, and their repetitive nature means the vocabulary can be picked up faster.

As nursery rhymes are read out loud, children are able to hear how the words sound and can practice how to pronounce them easily without the pressure of memorising words directly.

When reciting rhymes, children can practice speaking clearly, and can be shown how language variations such as pitch, volume, inflection and rhythm can be used to change the meaning of the words.

2) Developing reading skills

Nursery rhymes are a great tool for young children beginning learning to read, as they are essentially short stories.

Rhymes are a source of developing phonic skills, as they offer the ability to read and determine letter sounds. The rhyming words are especially useful for identifying the correct sounds.

Their rhythm and repetition makes them easy to commit to memory, and memory skills play a large part in learning to read.

3) *Enhancing creative writing skills*

Nursery rhymes are easy for children to follow and understand as they are structured like a short story with a beginning, middle and end.

They usually follow a sequence of events and consist of a main character in an interesting scene or circumstance – all important criteria for writing stories.

Nursery rhymes often also contain interesting literary devices such as alliteration and onomatopoeia, which help to engage children, and can be learned and applied to their own writing.

4) *Teaching Maths concepts*

Nursery rhymes use patterns in language and speech, and by recognising patterns in language, children are also able to recognise patterns in numbers, which helps with mathematical problem solving.

Many nursery rhymes also use numbers in the content of the rhymes, such as “One, two, three, four, five” and “Hot cross buns,” so children practice counting, addition and subtraction.

5) *Encouraging imagination*

Nursery rhymes often include elaborate storylines and characters, which help children to imagine them more easily.

The sense of imagination is heightened if nursery rhymes are coupled with some kind of creative visualisation such as illustrations or the use of actions.

6) *Improving physical development*

Nursery rhymes make great themes for drama and dance, as children can act out and use physical movement to demonstrate the characters and events in the nursery rhymes.

The ability to use the body to express words helps children make a connection between their senses and improves hand-eye coordination.

7) *Social and emotional development*

Nursery rhymes can help children to identify moods and feelings. Funny rhymes can make them laugh, while poems with sad themes can teach them about empathy, which is a good social skill.

8) *Boosting confidence*

As nursery rhymes are often fun or silly, children find them entertaining. Because they are memorable, children are also more likely to be able to recite them, which helps build their confidence in speaking.

9) *Preparing for advanced learning*

Nursery rhymes are an early form of poetry, and poetry is covered in later years, such as GCSE Language and English Literature, where children are examined on their ability to understand and analyse poems.

‘I am proud’

Throughout the year there will be many moments where you feel exceptionally proud of your child’s achievements and WOW moments. These might be achievements related to school, home or activities that they take part in beyond the school day. You might want to tell us about: how brave your child has been on a visit to the dentist; a sporting achievement; a musical achievement; something they have done to be particularly helpful or something to demonstrate growing maturity. We would love you to share these moments with us so that we can add these to your child’s ‘Learning Journey’. I have sent home an ‘I am Proud’ sheet for you to complete. They are also downloadable from our school website. We really look forward to hearing about **anything** that you are proud of.

Christmas Play

We have begun to practice our Christmas performance of the ‘A Miracle in Town’ along with Reception. Every child has now been given an important role to play within the play. These were decided along with the children to ensure that they felt confident in their role,

particularly if it requires them speak. You will have received a letter stating your child's role and any words they need to practice.

We are encouraging everyone to sing and speak clearly, so that the audience is able to hear. All the children will have a costume to wear, but you will have been informed if any accessories are needed to supplement these.

If you have any queries about any of the above, please come and see me.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs M Sims
Nursery Teacher