**Summer Term 2021 Newsletter**

Dear Parent/carers,

As we prepare to say goodbye to children and families leaving us to go to school, we would like to say a huge thank you to all of you, our community, for the support you have given us during this academic year. We have all faced many challenges and have had to overcome many hurdles to get to where we are; we will all take some time to rest and reflect over the summer break and return in September refreshed and ready for the next academic year.

**Staff training**

* Helen and Lisa have renewed their first aid certificates
* All staff have been training together every fortnight to deepen their knowledge on supporting communication and language skills, and will continue to do so until the end of the academic year
* Well done to Gemma who has submitted her last assignment for her Special Needs level 4 qualification

**Planning for chatterbox activities for the Summer Term**

* Our chatterbox activities complement the termly topics we cover in the setting. You can find the chatterbox activities posted weekly to our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/marketharboroughmontessorinursery/) page, and on the parent section of the website.
* This term we will be focusing on language development, and we hope that you will take part in our activities with your child. We encourage all parents to do the weekly activities with their children. Ordinarily we would ask you to send your completed activity in the chatterbox to nursery each week, but due to current restrictions are asking you to post a video of your child talking about their activity onto Tapestry and adding a photo of the activity.

**Tapestry**

* We actively encourage you to upload your photos, videos, and comments to us through [Tapestry](https://tapestryjournal.com/). We love to hear and see what your children have been doing at home! Check Tapestry every fortnight for new uploads from your child’s keyworker. Photos and observations of your child at nursery are great to share with them at home.
* For parents of children who are going to school, please ensure you download your child’s learning journal by the end of term as they will then be deleted over the summer holidays.

**Annual feedback**

* Please complete our two feedback surveys to help us plan for next term. The quickest way to complete them is online: [‘annual survey’](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HCY7AS/) and [‘home learning survey’](https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/LIT05M/).

 You can also [print](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccorin%5CAppData%5CRoaming%5CMicrosoft%5COneDrive%5CDocuments%5CNursery%5CYear%202020-21%5Cparent%20survey%202021.docx) it and bringing to nursery.

**Children’s clothes**

* Please ensure that you consider the weather when bringing your child to nursery and ensure that they are dressed appropriately. Children should come with sun hats and their own sun cream (if staying all day for reapplication), labelled with their name.
* All children should have a bag of spare clothes at nursery, and toileting items if they need it. We also ask that you provide nappy sacks for wet clothes etc. Please label all your children’s clothes and bags. For ease in the cloakroom, drawstring bags can be purchased from Nursery for £1.50.

**Absences**

* Please ensure that you ring the nursery if your child is absent and send in an absence note on their return. This is a requirement of funding.

**Upcoming events**

* **We are hoping that we may be able to hold a sports day this year – tbc**
* **End of term children’s party - tbc**
* **Fundraising event - tbc**

**Term dates 2021**

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| --- | --- |
| **Mon 12 April** | Start of Term - Nursery opens |
| **Mon 3 May**  |  **Bank Holiday** |
| **31 May to 4 June** | Half Term |
|  **Fri 9 July** | End of Term - Nursery closes for Summer  |

**Term dates 2021/22**

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| **Autumn Term 2021** |
| **Tuesday 31st August** | Nursery opens |
| **18 to 22 October** | Half Term |
| **Friday 17th December** | End of Term - School closes for Christmas |
| **Spring Term 2022** |
| **Wed 5 January** | Start of Term - School opens |
| **14 to 18 February** | Half Term |
| **Fri 8 April** | End of Term - School closes for Easter |
| **Summer Term 2022** |
| **Mon 25 April** | Start of Term - School opens |
| **Mon 2 May** | May Day Bank Holiday |
| **30 May to 3 June** | Half Term |
| **Fri 8 July** | End of Term - School closes for Summer |

**What we’ve been up to this academic year in our topic work**

* **In September**

 We thought about ourselves, our families, our friends and our communities and our feelings

* **In October**

We thought about the differences between people and what makes us unique.

We explored the season of Autumn and fireworks and fire safety.

* **In November**

We started to learn about festivals and celebrations, birthday celebrations, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We explored the dropping of temperatures as we approached the season of winter and explored hot/cold.

* **In December**

We thought more about preparing for Christmas and the children explored the nativity story, the children learnt some Christmas carols.

* **In January**

We learnt about some of the people who help us and the jobs some people do- we looked at doctors, police officers, firefighters and engineers. The children built some amazing bridges and machines using different materials!

* **In February**

We explored different forms of transport, continuing the work with the bridges and machines theme and then looked at different fruits and vegetables that were transported to the shops to buy and those that the children had at home.

* **In March**

We explored farms and baby animals, foods that animals and people need to grow and how babies grow into adults. We then began to look at how plants grow and asked children to look for signs of Spring. Through discussions with children about what they would like to find out more about, we went onto find out about our natural world after the Easter break.

* **In April**

We planted beans; found out about the wind and made windmills; sun and made sun dials; and explored shadows, rainbows and volcanoes and rocks. The children painted beautiful rainbows whilst exploring colour mixing, we played with the parachute in the wind, made volcanoes out of clay and used different materials for the magma and lava.

* **In May**

We explored different parts of flowers and trees and played a lot in the rain; it was a very wet month! The children splashed in puddles, listened to the sounds of rain; created fabulous rainy-day pictures and a rainy day poem.

**Topic Planning for the Summer Term 2**

**The children will be finishing the summer term with a topic on the rainforest and what we as individuals can do to ensure the sustainability of our world.**

Pre half term, the children at nursery had a lot of fun playing in the rain, splashing in puddles, listening to the sounds of the raindrops etc. They constructed a poem about rain and drew amazing rainy day pictures.We are taking the rain theme forward to begin to learn about the rainforests, helping children to think about the wider world and the impact that we all have on our planet.

**Please read the letter from our learning partner – Earth cubs.**

**You will be able to download an app so that you and your child can take part in fun activities to help your family learn more about rainforests, our environment and the sustainability of our planet.** Please let us know how you get on with the app, and what activities your child enjoyed by recording an observation on Tapestry.

Please remember to keep your child safe online. For advice, see the link on the homepage of our website ‘Children’s internet safety advice’.

**Our nursery is currently reflecting on what we can do to play our part in the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**

The UN goals were adopted by 193 countries in 2015, the SDGs emerged from the most inclusive and comprehensive negotiations in UN history and have inspired people from across sectors, geographies, and cultures. Achieving the goals by 2030 will require heroic and imaginative effort, determination to learn about what works, and agility to adapt to new information and changing trends.

We encourage all families to join with us in reflecting on, and working towards, the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the world’s shared plan to end extreme poverty, reduce inequality, and protect the planet by 2030. <https://unfoundation.org/>


If you would like to join a working group and help us develop a plan please let us know. Even if you are leaving us at the end of this academic year if you would like to be involved you would be very welcome.

**Transition to school – how to support your child and prepare them for school**

1. **Familiarising yourself with the school**

Find out about your child’s school:

* Is there a new principal/Head?
* Who are your child’s teachers?
* What is the curriculum at the school?
* What tests will your child have to do?

 Be positive about school

Talk to your child about school - which school they are going to, who their teacher will be what they will need to wear make sure that they attend the transition sessions of their new school, ask them if they are worried about anything to do with school before, during and after the transition dates. If you or your child have any worries about school please come and see us.

Visit the school website with your child to find out more about the school

1. **Get your child into the back-to-school routine.**
* If your child is still having a daytime nap, you should now be trying to wean them off, and giving them an earlier bedtime. Make sure your child has developed a good regular sleep routine so that they are not tired when they go to school; children need plenty of sleep to ensure that they are able to learn.
* About three weeks before school starts, have your child go to bed 15 minutes earlier at night and get up 15 minutes earlier in the morning.
* When school is 2 weeks away, have your child go to bed 30 minutes earlier at night and get up 30 minutes earlier in the morning
* When your child is about to start school in a week, have him/her go to bed an hour earlier at night and get up an hour earlier in the morning

1. **Teach personal preparation skills before school returns**
* If you’re not already doing this, have your child lay out her/his clothes before going to bed, this will help your child to get organised and be prepared in case she/he (or you) are running late in the morning.
* Ensure that your child is independent with the toileting routine: can go to the toilet themselves, are able to wipe themselves, flush the toilet and then wash their hands properly.
* Ensure your child has a good breakfast in the morning, if children are hungry this will affect their concentration and mood
* Encourage your child to become independent with dressing themselves, as they will need to do this when they do PE
* Encourage your child to use a knife and fork when they are eating a meal in preparation for having school dinners. Encourage your child to eat different fruits/vegetables, children will be encouraged to have fruits at snack time in school and fruits/vegetables at lunch.

Give your child lots of opportunities to practise fine motor skills e.g., pegging, spooning, opening and closing bottles, practising buttons/zips on coats and other clothes.

1. **Activities to do with your child over the summer**
* Play school

‘Play’ school with your child. It should be in a room without distractions (i.e., no TV or video games). Have an area that your child can choose from 2/3 activities e.g., put out a puzzle, some drawing paper and crayons, construction activity. Ask your child what they would like to play with and encourage them to complete the activity they have chosen.

Set up a role play area and encourage your child to tell you what you need for e.g., camping. Encourage your child to lead the play and interact with your child, ask questions, and extend their play.

* Daily book time

Look at picture books with your child and encourage them to talk about what is happening in the picture. Read a story to your child, ask them about the story you’ve read.

* Play counting games

Play games which involve counting and encourage your child to count out quantities e.g., 4 knives and forks when laying the table for dinner, counting the steps up to bed, do some cooking with your child and go shopping for the ingredients.

* Play listening games

e.g., go for a walk in the park what can you hear?

make quiet/loud sounds with pots/pans, make sounds with different things, can your child guess what you are using to make the sound?

Play games using phonic sounds e.g., put 2/3 objects on a tray staring with different phonic sounds cup, peg, sock. Can you give me something that begins with the sound ‘c’, the sound ‘p’ and the sound ‘s’? Turn the game into a memory game, cover the items with a tea towel, what is under the tea towel?

* Play turn taking/sharing games

e.g., games involving a dice, obstacle courses, construction, role play

* Peaceful times

Encourage your child to have times when they can sit quietly and look at the beauty of nature or listen to a piece of music to help them develop mindfulness.

Put a mat on the ground in the park or garden and ask your child to lay down and look up/close their eyes and listen to the sounds of nature.

**Time to be!**

Allow children time to ‘be’ - Children need to experience ‘boredom’ and not always be directed, or have activities put in front of them. Boredom allows children to ‘think’ and ‘be’. It allows them to create games and activities for themselves. They will learn to develop problem solving and be independent.