

Juniper's Newsletter Summer 2023

Curriculum

Each term the curriculum is devised specifically for the cohort of children that we have. This term children will be looking at the lifecycle of a caterpillar, turtle, and a plant. We will be identifying different animals and discussing who lives on a farm and who lives in a zoo. Children will be exploring where our food comes from and what a farmer does. This term is always busy helping those children who will be transitioning into reception class.

Pre-writing is always an important skill for children to practice. For our younger children we will be looking at developing those fine motor skills using a variety of finger gym activities, crossing the midline, and developing those core muscles which children need to develop ready for when they start writing. Our older children will be doing some pencil control activities, beginning to write recognisable letters, and progressing onto writing their name.

Staff Update

Last term saw us welcome Courtney to the team. Courtney joined us as a level 2 practitioner to work alongside our children who need some additional support and to enable us to carry out some focused interventions.

We also said goodbye to Ambreen, who left to have her baby. We are pleased to announce that she had another baby girl named Liyaana. We can't wait to meet her for cuddles.

Achievements!!

Let's celebrate!

In March 2023, we were awarded the Sandwell Charter mark for well-being. This now means we are officially a Social, Emotional and Mental Health accredited setting!



Supporting your child's learning!

Please continue to use our lending library. We encourage all children to take a weekly book home from our lending library and ask you to record any new learning and what your child felt about the story.

This is a really important part of your child's learning and one that will continue as they move onto school. Please note that you will need to return your child's book each week, before a new one is given out.

If you want to know more, please. speak to your child's key worker.

Early Writing Support

Give your child plenty of opportunities to complete activities lying down on their tummy, putting weight on their forearms to complete some colouring, jigsaw puzzles or reading a book. This will help your child build up strength in their shoulders and arms.

Dates for your diary

Big Cook Little Cook – Fruit Salad and Healthy Eating – Thursday 18th May 2023. Please register your interest.

Sports Day – Friday 9th June 2023

Graduation – Tuesday 11th July 2023

End of term party – Tuesday 18th July 2023

Did you know?

Junipers Pre-school is part of a bigger community centre. You can see the full list of services on our website www.stalbans-cc.co.uk

We have our community offer team - a team of community navigators who deliver well – being support services. The role of our community navigators is to find out what your needs are and help you to –

- Get access to support services
- Provide you with personalised advice, information, and guidance
- Help you manage your finances and maximise income
- Build your confidence to help you manage your own needs.

Golden Nuggets

The **cost-of-living** increasing is affecting us all. Please continue to use our clothes swap shop and food pantry. If you need any clothing items, essentials, or food items, please do let us know.

Did you know...?

Children need to be offered a new food 10-15 times before they decide whether they like it or not!

AND ...

It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open!

Staff News

Sam Oakley – Pre-school Manager, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Emotional and Mental Well-being Lead and Supporting SENCO.

Nikki Kullar – Deputy Manager, Supporting safeguarding lead and SENCO.

Sam Oakley will be completing her paediatric first aid certificate.

All staff have received training on the use of the settings defibrillator and oxygen mask.

All staff will be part of an 'Experts and Mentors' initiative as part of the Early Years Recovery package from the department of education in Autumn 2023.



REMINDERS

As we are quickly approaching Summer, can you please make sure when the warm weather approaches that you provide your child with a sun hat and apply plenty of suncream before your child comes to pre-school. For children that stay all day, we will provide another layer of suncream at lunch time.

Leaving – If you haven't already, please confirm whether your child will be leaving to attend school in September or whether they will be returning back to us for the Autumn Term.

Parent Consultations

In May 2023, we will be holding our parent meeting appointments. Please keep a look out for the dates in the Pre-school entrance from next week.

Speech and Language Top Tips for toddlers

- Get your child's attention – Get down to their level and engage their attention. Say their name first before speaking so they know you are talking to them.
- Give your child time to respond. Children need time to put their thoughts together.
- Build on what your child say's. If your child says, "Look Car", you can respond with "Yes, it's a blue car."
- Use facial expressions and objects for children to see what you are talking about.

Around the World in 5 days!

Week beginning 22nd May, we are exploring different countries and continents of the families who attend our Pre-school.

We will be having a day looking at Turkey, Slovakia, Latvia/Russia, Nigeria, Portugal and Germany ...

We will be looking at traditions, food, clothes, music and where people live.

Can you volunteer?

If you have any photographs that reflect the above or you would be happy to show the children how to cook or taste traditional food, traditional dancing etc, please let me know.



Last Term the children ...



Children in the Blossom Room have been looking at print, including shop logos and road signs in the environment. They changed their role play area into a shop and further enhanced their learning by taking a walk to the local shop to purchase some fruit for snack time. They made their own shopping lists before they went and discussed what they were going to buy. We used mathematical language such as heavy, light, many, few and used describing words such as smooth and spiky.

We had some wonderful workshops last term. Thank you to everyone who attended. We held our first 'Big Cook, Little Cook' workshop by making pancakes.

We also held a lovely 'Spa Day' workshop, where both parents and children experienced a foot spa, nail painting, hairdresser role play and face masks. Its so important to take time to look after ourselves and take care of our own emotional and mental well-being.



We are all about being inclusive at Junipers Pre-school.

Last Term we spoke to the children about Epilepsy and encouraged them to sound out the word by using a technique called syllable clapping. This means we encourage children to break down the word into syllables, which help them to learn and differentiate the sounds within the word.

As well as dressing purple for epilepsy awareness day, we also came dressed in blue for Autism awareness. We feel its important that our children learn about the needs of others.

Children in the Willow Room explored Magnets. Children have a natural desire and curiosity to explore. By exploring what magnets can do children develop their vocabulary and learn about different forces – pull and push, repel and attract. Children learnt about different materials, knowing magnets will stick to metal but not to plastic.



World Book Day 2023

We have a love for books at Pre-school. Celebrating World Book Day 2023. Can you guess who we are?

