

I hope everyone had a chance to relax during the half term break. Hopefully the weather will continue to improve as we move into Spring! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who attended the launch of our *Big Bedtime Read*. There was great brainstorming of ideas and, based on the positive feedback received, we trust that it was both an informative and enjoyable evening for everyone. Don't worry if you weren't able to come along as all children are being encouraged to take home a book pack which also contains some tips about extending book sharing experiences and other sources of books. **If you have not yet returned the baseline questionnaire, please do so ASAP** so that we can forward the relevant information to the Education Authority. We plan to have a follow-up event during school hours - more details to come.

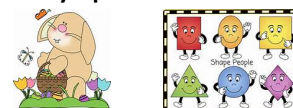
**Our topics from half term until mid-March are:**

**EARLY MATHS**    **Size & Measure**  
**INTEREST**        **Waste Not Want Not!**



**Our topics from mid-March until early April are:**

**EARLY MATHS**    **Shapes**  
**INTEREST**        **Easter**



**Happy Birthday to...**    **Lyra**  
**Myla**

**Faye W**  
**ii**



**Suggested Activities for your Child**

**PERSONAL, SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

☺ Although, most children are doing so, please continue to promote independence by encouraging hanging up coats etc. on arrival to Nursery. It's also a good idea to practise managing zips and large buttons; if your child is finding it difficult, encourage zipping up once you've put it in.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT & MOVEMENT**

☺ Remember to provide **regular** opportunities to practise and develop competence cutting with scissors and refining pencil grip and control.  
 ☺ Make use of a variety of junk items, masking tape and glue to encourage creativity and develop manipulative skills.

**LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

☺ When sharing books with your child, encourage good listening and observation to help develop recall and predictive abilities e.g. pointing out details in pictures and/or text to give clues as to what may happen next, asking related questions during and after the story is read.  
 ☺ Many of the children can write recognisable letters in their name and are ready to practise and develop appropriate formation. Here are a few multi-sensory ideas: writing letters with chalk, then tracing over them with a wet paintbrush (ground or easel); putting paint into a zip-lock bag, sealing it and using cotton buds or lolly sticks etc to write and draw; spreading coloured rice on a tray and using a finger to trace letters.

**THE ARTS**

☺ To explore printing and colour mixing, use a deep tray lined with a sheet of paper, large bouncy ball (or similar) and pots of red, yellow and blue paint. Drop the ball into the paint, mix it around, lift it out and set onto the tray, rolling it around to create a "path" and repeat with the remaining colours - simple but fun and effective!

**THE WORLD AROUND US**

☺ Help your child develop knowledge of recycling from helping to rinse and sort items by type for the recycle boxes to finding out about materials' uses and where they come from.  
 ☺ Reinforce concepts explored last topic including where water comes from, what makes it freeze and evaporate ("turn into steam"), its uses and how, when added to materials, it changes them e.g. dissolving jelly, making sand mouldable ("stick together").

**EARLY MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES**

☺ Extend your child's understanding and use of language associated with size beyond "big and small", particularly tall and short, long and short, wide and narrow, thick and thin, as well as comparative language e.g. "we'll need a narrower block to fit into that space". It's also a great opportunity to develop problem-solving skills!  
 ☺ Play simple games involving shape matching and recognition using everyday items and opportunities e.g. "I spy...something that's a square". As well as reinforcing the shape names, talk about their attributes e.g. sides and corners and, re 3-D, faces and edges.

**Dates for your Diary**

Wednes 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Jo Jingles visit  
 Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Library trip: **AM session - Oillie's mum Tristen's mum Myla's mum George's mum**  
 Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar **World Book Day** - please encourage your child to come to Nursery dressed as a character from a favourite book and bring a book to share about at Show & Tell  
 Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> **SCHOOL CLOSED FOR ELECTION**  
 Wed 8<sup>th</sup> - Fri 10<sup>th</sup> **Stay & Play days:** if you haven't already signed up to come in on one of these days, please speak to a member of staff if you would like to do so as you will be very welcome.  
 Wednes 29<sup>th</sup> Jo Jingles visit  
 Friday 31<sup>st</sup> Library trip: **AM session - Oillie's mum Myla's mum George's mum Tristen's mum**  
    **PM session - Chloe's mum Sophia's & Isabella's mum Graces' mum**  
 Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Visit to McKee's bakery - helpers: **Myla's mum George's mum Ivan's mum Amy's mum**  
 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Egg rolling race - please bring in a **HARD-BOILED EGG** for your child to decorate  
 Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> **Last day of term for Nursery** - end of term party/Easter hat parade. Please help your child to create an Easter hat using themed items such as eggs, bunnies, chicks and flowers for our parade around the main school





# Songs & Rhymes

Mrs Bunny looks funny when she twitches her nose  
Mrs Bunny looks funny when she wiggles her toes.  
Two floppy ears and two big feet  
I love Mrs Bunny 'cause she's so neat!  
Mrs Bunny stretches, Mrs Bunny flops  
Mrs Bunny hops and hops and hops  
And Mrs Bunny hops and stops!



Tick tock goes the clock  
Telling us the time.  
Tick tock goes the clock  
Listen to it chime!



Johnny taps with one hammer  
One hammer, one hammer.  
Johnny taps with one hammer  
Then he taps with two!

Johnny taps with two...three...four...five...hammers...



Five currant buns in the baker's shop  
Round and fat with sugar on the top.  
Along came \_\_\_\_\_ with a penny one day,  
Bought a currant bun and took it away!



Do you know what shape this is  
Shape this is, shape this is?  
Do you know what shape this is?  
It's a \_\_\_\_\_! (call out name of shape that's held up)



It was a bright new day  
The rock was rolled away.  
The empty cave was open wide.  
The angel said "Don't fear - He is no longer here -  
Jesus is risen, He's alive!"

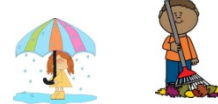


If you see a piece of litter pick it up .  
If you see a piece of litter pick it up.  
You will make the world look better  
If you pick up all the litter,  
If you see a piece of litter, pick it up!



The weather today is rainy, rainy, rainy  
The weather today is rainy, what shall we do?  
We'll put up our umbrellas, umbrellas, umbrellas  
We'll put up our umbrellas, that's what we'll do!

The weather today is windy...sunny...etc



I'm a little seed, small and round,  
Bury me down in the deep, dark ground.  
Sprinkle on some sunshine and raindrops too,  
Watch me grow as tall as you!



Wind the bobbin up, wind the bobbin up  
Pull, pull, clap clap clap!  
Wind it back again, wind it back again  
Pull, pull, clap clap clap!  
Point to the ceiling, point to the floor,  
Point to the window, point to the door.  
Clap your hands together 1,2,3!  
Put your hands upon your knees!



We're boiling Easter eggs x2  
Hey ho - it's Easter time  
We're boiling Easter eggs!

We're painting Easter eggs x2  
Hey ho - it's Easter time  
We're painting Easter eggs!

We're rolling Easter eggs x2  
Hey ho - it's Easter time  
We're rolling Easter eggs!

