



# Kindergarten Newsletter

## February 2024



**Dear Families,**

We have reached the end of another term! We are looking forward to welcoming you back after a restful half term to the signs of spring.

Our focus for next term

The theme for next term will be **'warmth and growth'**. We will be looking at those countries across the world where the weather is hot and will be finding out about the people and animals that live there. We will be exploring our natural environment for signs of spring and planting some seeds to observe how they change and grow. We will also be following the children's interests and develop learning opportunities and activities based on these interests and our children's identified next steps for learning.

### New Menu choices

If you have not yet submitted your child's food choices. Please use this link to notify us of your child's menu preference for terms 4, 5 and 6.

<https://forms.office.com/e/E455mM5Pns>

### Medication

If your child requires medication please fill out the appropriate forms and we will administer it for you. Please can you not leave medication in your child's bag.

Please follow the link to view our medications Policy

<https://www.schoolbus.co.uk/compliancemanagement/public/pupils-with-health-needs-attendance-policy/377813f6-2d94-40ff-ad85-160d4008ea61/81843>



### Mobile Phones



In line with our safeguarding policy mobile phones are not permitted to be used within the Kindergarten setting.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### Pilates



When we return from half term, we will be welcoming **Tori Stokes** who will be leading our Pilates sessions on a Tuesday morning. Some of you may be familiar with **Tori** if your child was in Kindergarten last year or had siblings with us previously and we are very excited to see her and start this new physical learning activity with us.

### Absences

If your child is going to be absent from Kindergarten for any reason, please could you email Kindergarten and Mrs Evans at reception.

If your child is going to be absent from Kindergarten for an extended period of time during term time, we kindly ask that you complete the notification of leave of absence form. A copy has been sent out on Seesaw and has been uploaded onto the Kindergarten website. ***It is important to note that regular attendance is a requirement of the nursery grant funding. If your child does not attend regularly, this funding would be claimed back by the Local Authority and we would be unable to offer your child a place at Kindergarten.***

## Key area updates

**Reading and developing a love of books:** This term the children have enjoyed visiting our school library looking for books linked to our themes of the cold including its lands and animals past and present as well as birds. Through their exploration during this time we have been able to start talking about the different types of books around us. The children have enjoyed the stories in the story suitcase and have been busy re-enacting these stories. The children are also telling each other more stories using the pictures and familiarity of the text which is wonderful to observe. It is fantastic that the children have been so excited to change their dream read books when they come in each day. I will be re-stocking this for the new term with books linked to our theme.



**Phonics and Mark making:** This term the children have had the opportunity to independently mark make as well as having specific time with their key worker with a planned activity to support and monitor their progress. They are becoming more confident in their mark making and are challenging themselves in new ways. During the recent cold spell, the children loved experimenting with mark making in the frost and ice!! A key focus of this term has been helping the children identify and hear the first sound of their name and we support them with this through the use of the Phonics International imagery, sounds and actions. If you would like to find out more about Phonics International and how we use this in Kindergarten please follow this link

<https://www.ckis.org.uk/page/?title=Phonics+International+%28Teeny+Reading+Seed%29&pid=393&action=saved>



**Maths:** Over the term the children have been able to explore length by using different sized snowmen and have conversations with their peers and adults on which one is shorter and which is longer. They have enjoyed matching the numbered penguin with its matching numbered egg which is further supporting their number recognition. We explored the idea of fewer by singing the songs 'five little ducks' and 'five little snowmen' which enabled the children to remove an item and see the objects becoming fewer. Whilst celebrating Chinese New Year we explored the concept of first and last by ordering the animals from the great race story and identify which one came first and which one came last.



We have also been scientists, artists, builders and forest learning explorers this term.





Here are some photos and quotes from our children about what they have enjoyed this term...



I liked making a rocket to help the penguin get home!

We liked digging for treasure!



We loved making a snowman on the whiteboard!



We enjoyed making the animals better in the cold lands vets!



Breaking open the ice and saving the animals was fun!

I liked talking about my Christmas!



I liked making puzzles!



We liked tapping the ice blocks and watching the penguin fall!



We loved jumping on the rocket launcher and making the rockets fly!

We loved looking for ice on our ice hunt!



We loved singing "we're great big polar bears!"



We liked mark making whilst listening to music and making our own music!



We enjoyed making our Chinese dragon head!

We had fun on our Dragon parade!

