



Hollybank Pre-School News

November 2019

Topic & Concept - Autumn & Light/Dark
Colour - Brown / Shape - Triangle / Number - 3



Welcome back after the Halloween break, we had two birthdays to celebrate last month Sara and Abbie joined our Fantastic Fours Club, Happy Birthday to them both. The children all looked fabulous in their costumes and we had a great Halloween party which included delicious nibbles, playing games and more importantly some singing and dancing. This month we will be highlighting the importance of "Road Safety Awareness," the children meet Tufty our puppet used to promote safety on the roads. We will also be discussing their personal safety regarding fireworks, electrical items and Stranger Danger. Please continue to develop and discuss this topic with your child reinforcing the importance of staying safe. We will begin our monthly visits from Amanda from Rathcoole Library who performed a Rhythm & Rhyme session with the children. Please try to take advantage of this service which is also available at local libraries. You will have received an application form to join your local library, this is a beneficial free service you should take advantage of to help improve your child's whole learning experience. Do take advantage of the local library; they too work in conjunction with the pre-school and Education Authority in promoting and establishing an early interest in books and reading.

This Month the Pre-school will also be visited by Jump, Jiggle & Jive as well as Jo Jingles for some fun singing and dancing exploration. This month we will bring our Dark Den into the classroom to help the children become aware of the changing seasons and the concept of light and dark.

TOPIC - autumn - We are still discussing the weather, the leaves falling from the trees and looking at and comparing colour changes. We will also discuss keeping warm along with extra items of clothing we might wear during the colder weather.

CONCEPT - Light & Dark - The children will be exploring the differences between light and dark using our Dark Den and Light Box, making shadows and shapes and sharing some new descriptive language associated with day and night.

COLOUR - Brown / SHAPE - Triangle / Number - 3

Adding another new colour, shape and number to the children's learning base - giving the children the opportunity to explore the shape, colour and number during daily activities.

STORY TIME - This month's books will include Emergency, Dora goes to the Doctor and Digger Man along with a selection of Postman Pat and Fireman Sam tales.

CRAFTS - Firework paintings, light and dark shadows with pastels, three dimension trees and hedgehogs made with clay.

MUSIC - As per usual Friday is musical instrument day where the children learn to enjoy music and sound. We will be singing songs and rhymes related to the autumn season and our number such as Three Little Hedgehogs, Three Falling Leaves and Three Blind Mice.

The areas we will be covering this month are listed on the front page — please take every available opportunity to reinforce their learning at home, while walking or being driven to school. Please continue with the donations of tissues and baby wipes, at this time of year they are used in abundance.

STORY SACKS:

This month sees the start of our distribution of Story Sacks. They will be given out on a Monday and need to be returned by Friday for the preparation of another child. They contain several reading books, some information on the scheme and a short questionnaire. All data gathered is then submitted into the Education Authority Getting Ready to Learn site so they can analyse the success of such an initiative.

Also included is some colouring pencils and a page for your child to draw some favourite character from the story they enjoyed the most, these are then proudly displayed on the classroom walls for us to discuss with the children. As previously mentioned these will be allocated on a rota system so ALL the children will be given equal opportunities to avail of this activity. This will ensure all the children are all given an additional opportunity to develop an interest in stories; books and reading so please enjoy this time spent with your child and share the wonderful experience of reading with them and their development.

****Could I please ask that you to obtain a photo of your child listening to a story being read to them so we can make a display board for our corridor to encourage discussion with the children. These photos will also be uploaded to the Education Authorities web site to demonstrate your participation in the scheme.****

We are planning a visit from our photographer in November, more details will follow, giving you plenty of time to order those extra copies for Christmas gifts for families and friends. As you will be aware of in local news education is under increased pressure with cuts and increased expenses, here at Hollybank Pre-School is no exception and we appreciate any unwanted costumes, toys, books etc, we depend heavily on parental support for fundraising during the year.

Unfortunately we are still not able to commence the after school Nurture Nest Club, the room we will be using is still not quite finished, I will keep you updated of the progress.

We are holding an Open Evening on Tuesday 26th November along with Hollybank Primary School between 3.30pm-5.30pm and would like to invite any families interested in their child attending our Pre-School in September 2020 to attend, please pass this information onto any other families whom you know may be interested. You will also be given an invitation for your child to come along and visit our wonderful Primary School and Junior School classrooms, this aid the children's transition into the new environment.

Thank you again for all your continued input and support this term.

Lorraine Brier
Pre-School Leader :-)

FINALLY A REMINDER THE PRE-SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER FOR STAFF TRAINING. NORMAL SERVICE WILL BE RESUMED ON TUESDAY 5TH.