



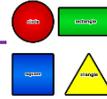
ST VINCENT'S NURSERY UPDATE

16 OCTOBER 2015



PRE-SCHOOL

The Preschool children have taken part in a large variety of learning opportunities this week. During Key Group time our activities have focussed on establishing the foundations of Phase 1 Phonics and developing early mathematical skills. During phonics we have been listening to environmental sounds, helping us to differentiate between sounds made inside the house such as a kettle, alarm clock and a running tap. These activities facilitate good listening skills essential for the ability to link sounds to letters. In our maths activities the children have been working through a program aimed at developing their understanding of basic concepts such as colour, shape, size and counting. We will be building on these concepts in the weeks ahead. In addition to this the children have enjoyed ball skills classes, 'Write Dance' and 'Stretch and Grow, all designed to extend our gross motor skills and a love of physical activity.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

19 October – International Week.

23 October – United Nations Day.

23 October – Nursery closes for term time children.

3 November – Nursery opens for term time children.



EARLY LEARNERS

This week the Early Learners have searched out autumn leaves throughout the garden and used the beautiful seasonal colours to create leaf hedgehogs. This activity enables the children to observe and examine the changing seasonal environment around them and point out how this affects the clothes that they will need to wear, wrapping up in our coats etc. We have also played with lots of different objects, sorting each one into specific categories varying in size and colour, becoming more familiar and confident with these concepts. 'Kim's game' which is a simple game in which the children have to examine five items of which one item is taken away, was also popular and is an excellent way of developing short term memory. We also took part in our first "new" ball skills session and the children used their bodies to move as different animals, stretching muscles and joints, a lovely way for the children to develop their gross motor skills. We all enjoyed the session. Well done everyone!



SPONSORED WALK

On Monday the Preschool children and some of our Early Learners joined in a sponsored walk with the School in aid of the charity "Mission Together in Malawi." Malawi is a country in Africa with high levels of child poverty. The charity provides essential medicines, clean drinking water and food to children living in very difficult circumstances. If you are able to make a small donation of loose change we would greatly appreciate it. Please return any donations in the special box your child brought home this week.



YOUNG EXPLORERS

This week the Young Explorers have taken a trip in their buggies to King George's Park where we all fed the ducks with seed. The children were able to grip the seed and throw it, developing both fine and gross motor skills as well as having great fun. During our inside sensory play we explored the consistency of jelly with our fingers, searching for sea creatures which were hidden within. The children used their fingers to differentiate between the different temperature of the cold jelly and the textures of the sea creatures. We have also continued learning our farm animal noises through songs and pictures and now have a large repertoire of Barefoot Books songs and actions. Excellent work this week everyone!

OCTOBER HALF TERM

During the half term holiday we have planned a range of exciting activities for the children to choose from including a pumpkin party, autumn crafts, junk modelling, baking club, pumpkin carving and much more. **More details will be provided next week.**



UNITED NATIONS DAY – FRIDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

On Friday the Nursery will be celebrating United Nation's Day and this year our special country will be Italy. Our Preschool children will join in a parade with Reception children and they will be carrying homemade Italian flags and banners. The younger children will join in similar activities in the nursery and our chefs are preparing some tasty Italian food for us to sample including focaccia, meatballs with pasta, and Tiramisu.



LOST PROPERTY

Please check that all your child's clothing is labelled. As you can appreciate there are a lot of belongings in Nursery and duplicate items of clothing have been found which are unlabelled and we would like to be able to return them to the correct owner. A box of lost property will be placed outside the back gate next week for you to look through.

