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December 2008

Dear Parents,

Term 2 is coming to a close and what a busy one it has been. The children have worked really hard to practice the Nativity Play and I hope you enjoy it.

When we return for term 3 in January we will be looking at the topic of Weather. Each week we will discuss a different season or weather - Week 1 - Rainbows, week 2 - Winter, week 3 - Spring, week 4 - summer, week 5 - Autumn and week 6 - Weather in general. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year by making a dragon puppet for the children to dance with during music and movement time. They will be learning a traditional Chinese song.

We will be having a letter of the week each week - S, A, T, I, P and N.

Within this topic we will be covering the six areas of learning and will hope to cover the following:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area covers Social and Emotional Development - we will be encouraging the children to share their experiences during circle time and have pride in their own achievements.

Communication, Language and Literacy

In this area we will be looking at early reading skills and, early and developing handwriting skills. We will be helping the children to show an interest in books. We will be encouraging them to use one handed tools and equipment, and attempt writing for different purposes.

Problem Solving, reasoning and Numeracy

In this area we will be helping the children to understand shape, space and measure.

Using various activities we will help them to understand capacities and lengths.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We will help the children to understand a sense of time by talking about the seasons of the year and what happens in each season. We will help the children with their ICT skills and encourage them to access the computer.

Physical Development

This area covers Movement and Space. The children will have the opportunity to use the climbing frame each morning. They will be using the trikes and ride on equipment and there will be music and movement opportunities.

Creative Development

Creative development will also cover Creating Music and Dance, so as well as the music and movement activities the children will have use of the musical instruments to create music.

How parents can help with the topic

Does anyone have a kite that we could borrow? We would like to take the children out into the field during our Autumn Week - 2nd February and fly kites with them, weather permitting. If you have any books, pictures, games etc to do with weather, your children are more than welcome to bring them in to show us.

Could you save any tin can that you might have - providing they don't have sharp edges. The children are going to decorate them and make rain shakers.

Library Bus dates for next term - January 6, 20 February 3.

The preschool have been issued with a Certificate in Excellent Practice, which we are all very proud of. (only 3 preschools out of 26 in North Wiltshire area have been awarded them)

We have been praised for: 'intergrating under 3's into practice, good knowledge of and flexibility to accomodate developmental needs.' For 'providing a stimulating environment.' For 'well organised procedures for recording learning and openness to piloting/developing new learning story approach.' And for 'strong leadership, teamwork and organisation.'

We have also recently passed Stage 1 of the PsLA Accreditation scheme. The assessor came out to us on Monday 8th December and has told us that we are being put through to the February panel to pass us for stage 2. Work on the 3rd and final stage has begun.

Could ALL parents please remember to sign their child out at the end of the session. At the end of the session could I also remind parents that their children are their responsibility and should not be allowed to run around the hall, especially on a Thursday when equipment is being put away.

Dates for your diary

We will be holding a parents evening for all parents in January - more details will follow in the New Year.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to me talk to Cora, Dawn, Jo or me.

All that remains is for me to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2009.

Sally Lewis
Preschool Supervisor