



THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

What's Happening in Nursery this Half Term?

(Half term commencing Monday 19th April 2010)

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

The topic this half of term is based around 'people who help us' and we will be encouraging the children to think about people in familiar environments, such as home, school and in the local community. We will be supporting the group to help one another with simple tasks and also care for plants in our garden area. We would love to hear from any parents, carers or relations who would like to talk to their child's group in connection with this topic. Sheila will be talking about her work in the office and use of her first aid skill in the school. Resources in the home corner have been changed to support the role play in this area and children's personal and social skills will be enhanced as they collaborate and share the resources. Each week the topic will focus on different people who help us; gardeners, doctors, postmen, fire and police service and we look forward to noting the children's individual interests during group discussions. We will be encouraging children to discuss their likes and dislikes towards food and also be looking at hygiene and healthy eating habits. Safety issues will be discussed prior to our trip to the local fire station and we aim to further develop their awareness towards road safety.

Communication Language and Literacy (CLL)

We will be continuing to develop awareness towards initial sounds in words and linking phonic sounds to particular letters, we would therefore appreciate your support bringing items in for our 'letter of the week' table. We will be introducing the children to an increasing range of books, both fact and fiction and encouraging them to make up their own stories. Many of the books we read will be linked to the topic of people who help us. We will be focusing on rhyming songs and stories, adding to their enjoyment of language and enabling them to experiment with the sounds of words. Your child's fine motor skills will be developed through drawing, writing, cutting and creative activities. Mark making will be encouraged to help children express themselves as well as being used to record information in all curriculum areas. We are always delighted to share family photos with your child's form group and this is especially helpful on Monday when the children talk about their weekend news as it prompts memory and adds detail to these discussion periods.

Problem solving, Reasoning and Numeracy (PSRN)

Many children started Nursery thinking of counting as a string of words, like a song. Throughout this year they have gradually begun to use counting as a tool. By counting many things and listening to others count your child has been developing a meaningful sense of numbers. During this half of term the children will collect real information or 'data' by counting as they investigate questions such as how many children are in the class, how many purple chairs are there, are there enough for the number of children present? After the children have collected data, they will find ways to represent it to others. For example they may draw pictures, write numbers or make a model with cubes to show 'how many'. Another part of our work involves sorting and classifying. They will look closely at related objects and decide how they are different or similar and then use this information to sort things in to groups and record their findings on to paper. If you wish to back up this knowledge at home, continue to count things around the house – how many spoons in the drawer /cans of beans on the shelf and let your child find a way to communicate this information.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World (KUW)

During the first week of term the children will be planting cress seeds and looking at what plants need to be able to grow. They will be able to water the plants and hanging baskets in the garden area and will be encouraged to comment and describe the changes that take place to the seeds and plants over the forthcoming weeks. Water play, using siphons, syringes and water wheels will be a regular feature in the garden area as the weather gets warmer. We also very much look forward to the Science Museum Outreach Team visiting the Nursery. Not only will they present their 'bubble show' to the group but will also dramatise a show of 'The 3 little pigs' which will link to their knowledge about the strength of different materials. The Nursery group will all be familiar with visiting a doctor for many different reasons and consequently will particularly enjoy role playing doctors and nurses, combining their first hand experiences with the props in the home corner such as stethoscopes, temperature strips and bandages. Our trip to Belsize Fire Station is always very popular as the children are shown all the equipment used by the firemen and are able to sit in the engine, try on the helmets and feel the force of the water as they help hold and direct the hose. Through these activities the children will develop greater awareness towards their environment and start to identify features in the natural world as well as having a lot of fun with their friends.

School Inspection

The Phoenix School is due to be inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) in the coming months. ISI inspections operate on a short notice basis and the school will be given one week's notice of the start date. Once we have been informed of our date, we will be emailing parents a questionnaire from ISI. We would be extremely grateful if all parents complete this questionnaire as it is an opportunity to share your thoughts about our school.

With warm regards,

The Nursery Team