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## THE PHOENIX SCHOOL

### **What is happening in the Nursery this Half of Term?** **January 11<sup>th</sup> – February 10<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Dear Parents,

It is wonderful to see all the children back, looking rested after their holiday. We hope you will find the following information useful as a guide to what will be happening in the Nursery over the next few weeks.

#### **Personal, social and emotional development (PSED)**

The topic this half of term is based around houses and homes and we will be encouraging the children to become more aware of their environment, identifying and talking about familiar features in their own homes. Children will learn to recognise electrical appliances and be encouraged to imagine how different their life would be without these convenient pieces of equipment. Role play in the 'home corner' will continue to promote creative interaction and support children's friendships as they learn to share the resources and play together in this popular area of the Nursery. Tidying up and replacing games into appropriate places is an important routine that all of the children are becoming increasingly familiar with in this second term of the school year. It is always helpful if the practice of clearing up is also reinforced at home. We do appreciate your support enabling children to become independent, encouraging them to tackle simple tasks such as hanging up their own coats and becoming aware of personal hygiene routines. Children of this age are extremely proud of these simple achievements and we are equally delighted to see how they have already made great progress in this area. As always, we welcome discussions with parents and carers regarding anything that may concern your child and meetings can be set up at mutually convenient times or information can be informally relayed at the start of the day.

#### **Communication Language and Literacy (CLL)**

Listening to stories will continue to provide a focused opportunity for each child to develop their vocabulary and communicate their thoughts based around a central theme. The underlying background of many of the stories that we read this half of term will be around the topic of houses and home life. Children will be reminded how to handle books and be encouraged to make up their own narrative as they share the 'big books' with their friends. A quiet time for looking at our collection of books is provided for children after they have finished their lunch. The group will develop sequencing skills as they look at specially selected pictures and learn how to put scenes in the correct order, predicting what happens first, next and last within a simple story. They will continue to focus on the 'letter of the week', learning to link phonic sounds to particular letters and they will carry on using a variety of resources to develop their pencil control. Each week you will receive a note informing you of the chosen phonic letter sound. We would very much appreciate if you could help your child look for things around the house to bring in to school for our collection of objects that link to the weekly phonic sound. (Please try and name objects so that we can return them to the correct child at the end of the week.)



### **Problem solving reasoning and numeracy (PSRN)**

The Nursery group is becoming more aware of some of the similarities and differences between the four main 2D shapes and are beginning to talk about shapes that they see in the environment. We will continue to focus on making shape pictures for several weeks and will also look at a few 3D shapes where children will learn to identify and match up the flat faces of geometric solid shapes. We will also be looking at pattern making, initially through physical pattern routines with motions, such as clapping hands and then tapping knees in a repetitive pattern. Children will copy and create simple patterns and learn to predict what might 'come next'. Being able to recognise patterns is an important tool in maths and the group will learn how to make a pattern using the shape and colour resources. The groups will have many opportunities to copy, create and extend patterns, using materials such as pattern blocks, colour tiles and interlocking cubes. They will be encouraged to describe, repeat and extend a pattern and predict what comes next in a pattern whilst working independently and within small groups. You could support this activity at home by looking at patterns on fabric, porcelain and clothing. Children could sort items into two groups: those with patterns and those without.

### **Knowledge and understanding of the world (KUW)**

The Nursery group will be looking at different types of houses around the world and will use a range of resources to create their own buildings. We would appreciate if you could bring in any spare cardboard boxes over the next week of this term to support the activity. Following on from the puppet show at the end of last term we will look at the story of 'The Three Little Pigs', focusing on the different properties of materials such as bricks, wood and straw and think about the relative strength of materials and the effect of wind and harsh weather on homes. Furniture will be sorted into groups related to the different functional requirements in the home, and mirrors and magnifying glasses will be available for the children to experiment with. Towards the end of this half of term, the Nursery group will be able to take part in a textile workshop carried out by Josie Firmin who will link her project to our topic. If you have any photographs of your own building projects or unusual properties that you have stayed in, we would love to display them on one of our boards for the children to look at and talk about. Do encourage your child's curiosity by pointing out the different functions of appliances and letting your child help you as much as possible whilst also developing their awareness towards the dangers of playing with electrical items in the home.

Regards

The Nursery Team

