NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

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ST PHILIP’S MARSH NURSERY SCHOOL

**Patterns**

The theme for this term is ‘patterns’. The children will be observing, discovering and creating patterns in many different ways. There are patterns in nature, music, movement, literacy and maths. In fact, there are patterns everywhere! Recognising and understanding patterns is a key educational life-long skill. Understanding patterns helps children make sense of many different things. It helps to develop their critical thinking and logical skills and provides a sense of order in a complex and fast changing world. Please talk to your child about what they are learning and help them to recognise the patterns all around them and in their daily lives. Please talk to your child’s key person if you have any questions or suggestions.



**Parent consultations**

Parent consultations will be held on **Thursday 15 June and Tuesday 20 June** (3.45-5.45 pm).

This is chance to talk to your child’s key person about your child’s learning. Please note that this is for children who will NOT be returning in September. (Children returning in September will be able to attend parent consultations in October.)

**Curriculum focus**

Literacy

Encourage your child to experiment with sounds. Activities that involve children in make sounds with their body are fun. You can clap, stamp, click fingers, pat knees etc. Perform a pattern of sounds using your body and encourage your child to copy. Play ‘Simon Says – Simon says clap hands/click fingers’ etc. There are lots of songs and chants – ‘if you’re happy and you know it’ is one that everybody loves. Here are some more you could try:

Clap them, clap them, clap them so,Clap them high, clap them low,Clap them left, clap them rightClap them, clap them out of sight

*Two little feet go tap tap tap,
Two little hands go clap clap clap,
I stand up quietly by my chair,
Two little arms raise high in the air,
Two little feet go jump jump jump,
Two little fists go thump thump thump
One little body goes round and round
One little child sits quietly down*

Numeracy
Pattern is early algebra! It is about making predictions based on what you know. You can explore pattern through fun ‘guessing’ games which are really predicting games e.g. you can hide a patterned string of beads in your hand and pull out a few beads. Can you tell me what kind of bead is coming next? Or lay out a pattern of sweets/coins/biscuits/ fruit – cover them up – make it mysterious – uncover them one at a time – no peeping – what do you think is coming next? It’s part mystery, part magic, but it’s actually maths! Or play a rhythmic, patterned, moving game, speaking as you move, “hop, skip, jump, hop, skip, jump” and then FREEZE! What were you going to do next?

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**Transition**

Transition arrangements are underway to prepare children who will be leaving us to start their Reception classes in September. Many of the schools will send their Reception teacher to visit your child in school and there will be opportunities for you and your child to visit their new school for ‘taster’ sessions. Please talk, to your child’s key person if you have any concerns.

**Donations**

The children go outside in all weather and we would be very grateful for donations of children’s wellington boots (children’s sizes 5-12).

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The school provides free milk for all children. We do, however, rely on donations of fruit, vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks, cucumber, peppers) and other healthy snacks (e.g. cheese, crackers, bread sticks) for your child to share at snack time. If you could bring in a small amount each week it would be greatly appreciated.

**Summer safety**

Believe it or not, its summer! When the sun begins to shine it is important to take certain precautions. Please make sure your child’s shoulders are covered, bring a sun hat (labelled with your child’s name) and, if you think it is necessary, apply sun cream before your child comes to school. It would be difficult for staff to apply sun cream to children due to the number of children attending the setting each day and due to allergies. There are sun creams available that last all day and this would be preferable. However, you can send in sun cream (labelled with your child’s name) and the staff will supervise whilst they apply it themselves. It might be a good idea for them to practice this at home first. The children spend a lot of time outside: climbing; riding bikes and scooters; playing ball games; gardening and running around. Open-toed sandals, crocs and flip flops are not suitable footwear and can be dangerous. Please ensure your child wears suitable footwear to School.

**INSET Day**

The School will be **CLOSED on Friday 21 July** for our final INSET day of the academic year.

**Important dates**

**Thursday 15 June and Tuesday 20 June** (3.45-5.45 pm) – Parent consultations

**Friday 23 June** – Forest School

**Wednesday 28 June** – New parents evening (for new children starting in September) 6.00-7.00 pm

**Thursday 29 June, Monday 3 July, Tuesday 4 July** – Forest School

African Caribbean day – **Tuesday 18 July** (please see attached information)

Sing-alongs – **Monday 17 July at 9.15 am and Thursday 20 July at 3.00 pm**

INSET Day – **Friday 21 July (SCHOOL CLOSED)**

**24 July – 1 September** (inclusive) – School CLOSED for summer holidays

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