

## Early Year Unit: Nursery Newsletter – Summer 1

### Welcome

We hope you have had a very well rested Easter break and would like to thank all the parents for all their contribution last term and participating in our Easter craft session. We would also like to welcome our new children joining us this term. We are very excited to get to know you and your new friends are very excited to meet you all. Please make sure to regularly check Evidence me as we share your children's accomplishments for you to see and enjoy.

### Summer 1 Focus

Our focus of this term is 'animals and their babies'. During this term the children will explore a wide range of different animals and will learn new vocabulary to name and describe animals and their offspring. For example, the children will learn to say 'kitten' instead of 'baby cat'.



We have also booked a trip to visit West Lodge Farm for the children to enjoy at the end of this term. **Please check your parent pay account for any outstanding payments.**

### Phonics

At Hazel Leys, we use the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* scheme. In Nursery, your child will take part in daily phonics sessions which will encourage them to listen to sounds in words, such as the sound that their name starts with. This term we will focus on the l, j, v, w and y sounds and playing listening and attention games.

## Phonics

### Literacy – Writing

During this term we will be doing our pencil grip activities. Looking at pinch fingers and how we hold a pencil. We will also be looking at mark making activities with different resources and materials.



We will also start working on name writing for those children who will be going to school in September.

### Literacy - Reading

We will be sharing lots of lovely stories with your child in Early Years and we will upload examples of the work that we do that links to our weekly story focus to Evidence me for you to share at home.



Every Friday, your child will choose a 'Reading for Pleasure' book to take home. This is a book to be shared with the adults at home. By reading a wide range of books, your child will be emersed in storytelling and will expand their vocabulary. **Please bring the reading book back on a Thursday so we can change it to a new book to bring home on a Friday.**

### Maths

We LOVE to count in Early Years, we count everything and sing lots of number rhymes to help us remember the order of numbers when rote counting. This term we will be focusing 1 more and 1 less up to 5 and then looking at our number bonds to 5. Number bonds are the foundation on mathematical understanding so we will spend a few weeks focusing on how we can find our number bonds to 5.



### Communication and Language

This term we will continue to sing nursery rhymes daily and we will send a nursery rhyme home each week for you to practice at home with your child. We also provide a range of role play experiences that model high quality vocabulary for your children to use. We will also be continuing with communication focused group work to support the children's language development. We will be sending home a list of words that the children should understand at their age. Please use these around the house and explain them to the children as this will greatly improve their vocabulary development.



**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This term we will be looking at how to be a friend. We will also think about why we come to nursery, being kind and sharing and telling an adult when there is a problem. We will also be looking at school rules and how to form friendships within my class. We are continuing to work on expressing our feelings and knowing the difference from right and wrong.

**Physical Development**

In Nursery, we will be practising ways to move, encouraging fine motor activities, such as using scissors, pencils, and cutlery, encouraging good posture when sitting at the table or on the floor and practicing ball skills. We also have dough disco every morning to strengthen our fine motor skills.



**We are excited to be have our new outdoor area installed this term which will offer more gross motor opportunities for all the children. Please ask a member of staff about the plan for the outdoor classroom.**

**Understanding the World**

Children will learn that all animals have offspring but that not all animals look like their parents. They will compare a cat and a kitten before looking at a caterpillar and a butterfly to see a contrast. They will then study farm animals and will learn that some farm animals, such as lambs are born in springtime. After learning about farm animals, children will move onto studying woodland animals such as badgers, foxes, owls, and hedgehogs.



**Expressive Arts and Design**

We will be using a range of materials to make different animals and their babies. The children will be encouraged to select colours that clearly represent the animal, E.G not painting a dog blue or a cow pink. The children will have a range of role play opportunities so they can experience riding a tractor, caring for animals and taking on the role of a farmer



**Helping your child learn at home**

- Share the 'Reading for Pleasure' book with your child.
- Encourage your child to put on their coats independently.
- Practice counting objects at home.
- Listening to sounds in their name



**Skills Builder**

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities.



**Rewards**

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. Points can be 'spent' on prizes periodically.



**Class information**

**Nursery staff:** Miss Coupland (lead), Mrs Pritchard and Miss Jeta.

- **Forest School:** This takes place on a Thursday morning. Children to come into nursery in clothes for forest school, named wellies and a named coat or all-in-one weather suit.
- **Evidence Me:** Please check Evidence Me regularly for updates on what we are doing in nursery!
- Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts and to make it a **healthy selection of food**.
- Please could we ask that all children bring in at **least two changes of clothes**. These can be kept in a bag on their pegs. Staff will inform you if they have had to change your child.



Thank you for your support with these matters

**Dates for the diary!**



**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Bank Holiday**  
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – School reopens to pupils**



**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May – Bank Holiday**  
**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May – KS2 SATs**  
**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Walk to school week**  
**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – West Lodge Farm Trip**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May - School closes to pupils for Half Term**