

PRE-SCHOOL

This week we have.....

Been looking at Hedgehogs as part of our Wanderlust: A Nature Study Programme.

Had a wonderful cake shop in the outside area, with mint choc chip and strawberry cupcakes being put on sale, some of the cakes were selling for £100!

Been busy in the water tray, filling up the measuring jugs and tubs to see how much water they will take. Some jugs took more water than others.

Built magnificent big block structures and used our eyes to make sure it was safe to use and changed it if it wasn't. This helps us to risk assess our own play.

Been on an underwater dolphin ride in one of our relaxation sessions. If you haven't tried relaxation with your child please do give it a go, it is fantastic after lunch.

Drawn self portraits using pencils and mirrors, the children then took this outside and painted themselves on the floor using powder paints.

Been learning some Top-Secret songs! All will be revealed soon



Pre-School Christmas Party and Friday Finish

On Friday the 17th December we will be finishing a little earlier due to the Primary School finishing earlier. Instead of 3.30pm we need to finish at 3pm, we are sorry for any inconvenience but this still allows us to have an afternoon session rather than finishing at 12.30pm.

On Wednesday the 15th December we will be having a Christmas Party in the afternoon. If any children who aren't in on Wednesday afternoon would like to join us, please let us know it will start from 12.30pm and finish at 3.30pm.

We will ask you to provide a lunch and to keep inline with our Healthy Smiles Policy we will provide a low sugar Christmas biscuit for a treat. If you would prefer your child not to have the Christmas biscuit please do supply your own healthy treat and just let us know.

We will have games, dancing and (as this normally happens as the children get very tired) an age appropriate Christmas Film for those children who would like to relax for a few minutes.

Dates for your Diary (please check Newsletters and online Notice Board for updates)

Applications for Primary School open

This is now open

Christmas Holidays

Pre-School Christmas Party, Wednesday 15th 12.30 pm – 3.30pm

Pre-School finishes Friday 17th December at 3.00 pm

Pre-School starts January 4th.

Half Term

Pre-School finishes at 3.30pm on Friday 18th February

Pre-School starts Monday 28th February at 8.45 am (or 8am for breakfast club)

This week we would like to speak with you about rules, boundaries, choices, consequences and manners after being asked by some of our families for some help.

Do any of these sound familiar?

Does your child hit/kick/bite you?

Does your child pick their toys up and put them away when you ask?

Does your child ask for things nicely and say please or thank you?

Does your child break their toys on purpose?

Does your child say “get me X”?

The consequences to these actions are minimal, as they are still learning and with guidance they will learn acceptable behaviour.

Now imagine your child older.

Is your child violent?

Does your child disrespect your home?

Is your child rude?

Does your child respect you and listen to what you say?

Does your child understand right from wrong?

The consequences here could be more severe, being expelled from school, not having good relationships with family or friends, bullying tendencies, mental illness and more.

But, how do children learn what is right and wrong or what is acceptable?

They learn through you, their parents/carers and through all who educate.

They see how you handle situations and will copy, whether it is actions or words.

They learn through being set boundaries by you and from having a consequence (good or bad depending). Boundaries let the child know you are looking after them and keeping them safe. From doing this they will start to learn right from wrong, what's acceptable behaviour and what isn't. Did you know children who have no boundaries can suffer with mental health later on in life?

Children will push boundaries that is natural, we all did it! We just need to be consistent and change the boundaries in an age-appropriate way. This however doesn't mean an authoritarian approach where the child must always do as you say and never have an opinion or view of their own.

We have spoken before about how we work at Pre-School
For example:

Becky if you chose to tidy your toys we can go outside.
If you chose not to tidy your toys we can't go outside.
It's your choice, it's up to you.

Whatever choice Becky chooses we follow through with the consequence.

We stay consistent with our rules and boundaries and we speak about them with the children. If we need to speak about choices and consequences we use language the children will understand and follow through with what is said. We are clear on expectations and involve the children in setting their Pre-School Rules.

We role model behaviour we speak about manners, we say please and thank you. We talk about not dropping their food on the floor and keeping it on the table at snack and lunch time. Did you know the children also pack away their lunch and put their lunch boxes and bottles away? We have tidy up time, where all the children participate.

Following rules or not crossing boundaries does not make us 'sheep' as some people like to say and of course it is ok to question and challenge. But we need to learn that if, for example, we hit people the consequence as a child is our friends may not like us. But as an adult if we hit someone the consequence can be very different.

Place2be has a launched Parenting Smart that has information on lots of subjects and as relevant to this piece 'The importance of rules and boundaries'.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/the-importance-of-boundaries-and-consequences>

By working together we can raise children who are confident, can make good choices, have the confidence to set their own boundaries, are polite and who know right from wrong. Giving them all the skills they need to take them through their teenage and adult years where choices become a little harder to make.