MC900078840[1] **Bligh’s Lane Nursery School**

**Newsletter February 2023**

Monthly Theme

##### The theme for this month is ‘Myself and My Family’. The children will be involved in discussions about themselves, the people they love and people who help us. We will be talking about our bodies, how they work and the importance of healthy foods and exercise. If you have anything ‘Love’ related e.g. Heart shapes, please bring them into school. Our story of the month is the much loved fairytale ‘Little Red Riding Hood.’

***Songs and Rhymes***

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| * Friends | * I have ten little fingers |
| * Polly put the kettle on | * Two little eyes |
| * When Goldilocks went to the house of the Bears | * One Little Finger * Open Them, Shut Them |
| * Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes | * Fire Engine Rhyme |
| * If you’re happy and you know it | * I look in the mirror |
| * Granny’s glasses * Rock-a-bye baby | * Miss Polly had a Dolly * I wiggle my fingers * Bend your body |

 Early Mathematical Experiences

We will be developing an awareness of the Heart shape this month and also reinforcing prepositions and concepts: ‘In Front / Behind, First and Last’. There should also be lots of opportunity to point out ‘heart shapes’ in town this month! The development of other aspects of maths can be seen on the Monthly Planning sheet on the Parents’ Notice Board.

j0251301Early Science

The children will be experimenting with mixing colours to make new colours using paint and crepe paper. Other aspects of science will be explored during discussions about the body and functions of major organs (in simple terms).

MC900048279[1]Mid-Year Reports

##### Mrs Doherty, Mrs Woods and Mrs O’Doherty are completing the children’s mid-year Reports. You will have the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher before the end of February to discuss your child’s progress.

Dental Hygiene

As part of our topic this month, we will be learning about “People who help us”. We will talk about going to the dentist and learn about the importance of looking after our teeth. The children will learn about the importance of looking after their teeth and healthy eating and drinking.

Focusing on Developing Your Child’s Language Skills

MC900056589[1]The staff have been working especially hard this year with promoting the development of language skills. During our last parent/teacher meetings lots of parents asked how they can help their child, so in addition to the weekly book and ‘Book of the Month’ will begin to send home language packs. The activities in these packs aim to give you some idea of how you can help to boost your child’s language development at home. A little time spent helping your child with language each week will help him/her to be ready for the demands of Primary school. You will also find a ‘Parents’ Comments’ book which can be used to let us know how your child responds to the activities. We may also send home packs which promote mathematical or another area of development. Your child will not get an extra ‘homework pack’ on the week they have the ‘Book of the Month.’

**To help us get the children’s books ready every week we ask that you return book-bags on Monday.**

Getting Ready to Learn- Come Read with Me

Thank you to you all for your commitment to borrowing and reading books to your children from our lending library.

We would usually have our ‘Come Read with Me’ sessions in February. Parents would sign up to come in for 15-20 minutes at the beginning of the day to read a story/stories to their child and other children in our book corner. Unfortunately the current high rate of Covid 19 in the community will prevent us from doing this but we would still love your input. If you would like to record yourself reading a book we could show it to your child with a group of friends- they would love it! Please let us know if you would like to take part- it doesn’t need to be long or all ‘bells and whistles’- the simpler the better!

We will re-evaluate the Covid situation later in the Spring Term as well as looking at the Come Dine with Me arrangement again.

Sharing From the Start

Our shared sessions finally began last month when we had a visits with the staff and children from both “Stepping Stones” (St Johnston) and from Cockhill. The children loved visiting another setting or welcoming new friends into our fantastic school. There will be a further session on Friday 10th February where the children will meet in each other’s settings and do activities based on a Valentine’s theme.

Banyan Theatre

We are delighted that Banyan Theatre will be coming to Bligh’s Lane on 25th February with the story of ‘Red Riding Hood’. These productions are always such a magical experience and the children will be so excited to tell you about it.

Nursery of Sanctuary

We are thrilled that Bligh’s Lane Nursery School has been selected to take part in the Nursery of Sanctuary Program. We are one of only eight settings to be selected. In order to achieve this accreditation we will be considering carefully how we welcome all children and families in to our setting and especially refugee and asylum seeking families. We will commit to making our school a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone, help our children to develop cultural awareness across the curriculum, and strengthens connections with the wider community. Many primary and secondary schools have already taken part and been accredited as Schools of Sanctuary and we hope to be amongst the first to become a Nursery of Sanctuary.

Eco-Schools and Forest Schools

Children will continue to take part in our Forest Schools program which forms part of our Eco-School bid and our Engage program. Children will visit the facilities at the Playtrail on 1st and 15th March. They will also continue to look for signs of Spring and begin to think about planting for growing season . Again we ask for any parents or grandparents with a particular interest in this area to lend us their ‘green fingers’.

The children continue to think about the world they in and how we can protect the environment. We will have a visit from ‘The Weatherbees’ in early March and we will continue to take part in our Daily Mile initiative.

Snack Money Reminder

Please remember to pay your weekly snack money. It is a bargain at £3 per week- many nurseries charge double this! As well as buying the foods and drinks for snack it also pays for our trips out and for any extra activities within school such as Banyan Theatre.

Mid-Term Break

The school will be closed to the children on the following dates:  **Monday 13thto Friday 17th February. School will re-open as normal on Monday 20th February**

Birthdays this Month

|  |  |
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| * Jayden McBride * Ellie-Grace McCann | * Eli Doherty * Gracie McIntyre |