

We are now at the mid-point of the school year which gives us time to both reflect on all the achievements and look ahead at an exciting, busy but then emotional final part of the year. It is also the time of the year where our older children discover where they will move onto next and we share our information to support transition to Reception.

As a school we are already preparing children in so many ways for the next step in their journey but we are always looking to ensure that this preparation is as thorough as possible to set children up for success. One vital area to prepare children is in encouraging full attendance.

For some of our children moving into primary will mean a jump from 15 hours to full time. For our 30 hour children it will actually represent a reduction in learning time. What is very different for all of our children is the move from non-statutory to statutory education and the expectations around attendance.

As a nursery we are compassionate about our children still having time with families where plans are already in place (dancing lessons/gym etc) but now is the time in the year where we need to help make that transition where possible to full time attendance.

Our day is structured and planned with exactly the same rigour and commitment that you will find in any primary school and even one missed session cannot be revisited. Every day children have a number, phonics, curriculum and literacy session. Having these sessions now prepares them for future learning and sets them up to succeed. Some may argue that they will get it again in primary...I would then rather give our children another opportunity to learn and understand in all of these areas.

As a passionate early years educator who has read many research studies looking at the impact of early education (Most prominent being the High Scope Perry study for those who like data and research!) I am often left saddened and frustrated by the lack of importance and value we place in our country on early education. The most successful nations in the world educationally are those who do the opposite! Those that understand the first seven years of life are where most of our deep learning and intellectual growth happen. I cannot change our national cultures and attitudes but we can start to address that in our own community by valuing deeply the quality of education available Monday to Friday at Birchfield and showing this through committed full attendance.

Along with focussing on attendance we must also look at lateness. I am positive that this is not tolerated at Primary School and we will be placing an increased emphasis on timely arrival. We will always offer flexible drop offs for the first fifteen minutes of session due to traffic issues. Arrival beyond this time is disruptive for your children and others in the nursery. Staff have focus children and activities to support across the nursery from the minute our doors open, it may be your child that is missing out on this valuable additional support.

I look forward to sharing positive news weekly about attendance. I will not be rewarding attendance as I believe the reward is being here in our wonderful space and we will continue to understand that. I will be sharing our weekly attendance percentage and look forward to seeing this move in a positive direction.

THE BIG QUESTION



Next weeks big Question is focussed on seasonal change in our environment. This builds on prior learning about autumn and winter.

"What happens to our world in the Spring?"



To support our raised profile on full attendance we ask parents to please allow children to access as full a day as possible. If early collection is essential we require you to collect between 3.00-3.10 to ensure that staff are available and for safeguarding purposes. Advance notice must always be given via email.

Passwords

A reminder to please ensure that adults collecting your child have the correct password

Toys from home

We understand that sometimes children require transition toys to support them coming in on emotional days. We will often work with families supporting this however we have seen a significant increase in children bringing toys into school, often very small but very precious to them. To avoid loss we ask that all toys be handed to parents at handover unless previously agreed.

PARKING

Polite reminder to not park on the driveway and that the staff car park is for staff and blue badge holders ONLY. We are very short of space in this area and it is becoming quite a safety concern

Overall attendance this week is 87%

EVENTS

7th March
World book day

8th March
Mothers day stay and
play
'mums ONLY!'

w.b March 18th
Spring Walks

19th/21st March
1:1 parents meetings

All events can be
found on our
calendar on the
website

GRADUATION
10th July 5.30 @
Wade Deacon



*What can we make
with a box?*





We developed our fine motor skills by painting inside the shapes.



We hope you like our painted windows!





Our number of the week is 10 so we went on a number hunt to see if we could find 10!



Likening to sounds



Learning new sounds



An exciting week of phonics



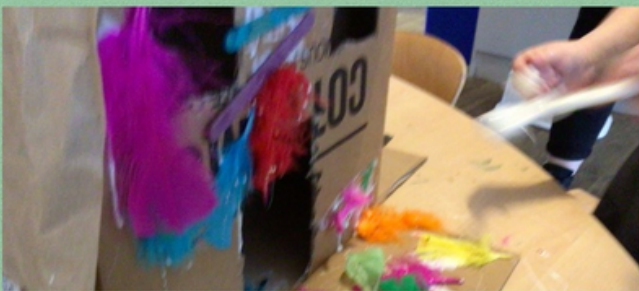
Sounds bingo

Forming letters in the air



Using stories to create sounds





What can you
make with a box?

PIC•COLLAGE



Pen disco

PIC•COLLAGE

Outdoor choosing time



PIC•COLLAGE

