



Elsworth Pre-School Newsletter w/c 9th November 2020

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A week of two halves.

Welcome back after half term. This week we have spent the first half learning a little about Guy Fawkes, his plot and making large-scale fireworks art outside with chalk paints. We have then made lots of poppies for remembrance day and watched a Cbeebies video that sensitively starts to look at remembrance. This prompted lots of questions from the children as they wondered and comprehended what the war was. We discussed this and the children said it must have been scary during the war but that the people must have been happy when they were reunited. This is so often an uncomfortable topic but we have all talked about remembrance in a child appropriate way and the children have developed their empathy for others. Our poppies will be displayed on the grass area at the front of the school. Outside the children have been practicing their ball skills with football play and lots of throwing and catching too. There has been so much fun with the water too, from large artwork, cleaning cars, bikes and fences to using it to make 'cement' for large scale construction and that's before the water tray was filled ready for the boats.

We are sure that you are all aware that cases of Covid-19 are on the rise both nationally and more locally. We would like to thank you all for your cooperation with social distancing on your arrival and departure from Pre-School. Our safety measures remain the same going forward as we continue to welcome your children to Pre-School. If you ever have any concerns please speak to a member of staff, we are always happy to help.

Important things to bring to Pre-School

We go outside in all weather so please can you bring wellies, outdoor shoes and slippers for inside. A coat and warm clothing are a must or sun lotion if we are lucky and have sun! A change of clothes just in case. A labelled bottle of water, healthy snack (fruit or vegetables) and a lunchbox if staying for lunch.

Book of the Week

Our book of the week will be **Whatever Next** by Jill Murphy. A story celebrating imagination. We will have all of the props available for the children to recreate the story through their play.



Number of the week

To compliment the book of the week we will look at counting backwards from first 5 and then 10 with rocket play, number ordering and songs.

Sound of the week

Our sound of the week will be 'a' we will concentrate on correct speech formation and initial sound recognition by going on a sound hunt. We choose a sound of the week or listening skill to focus on with the children based on phase 1 and 2 of Letters and Sounds as well as developmental needs identified. There are supporting games and information about this at: <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2.html>

We focus on the sound a letter makes rather than the letter name as this supports early literacy skills and forms the basis for reading and spelling in primary school. Phonics has changed so much since most parents were taught so a refresh of pure sounds could help you to support your child when pronouncing sounds. Here is a video that demonstrates this much better than any written explanation

could: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=IwJx1NSineE>

Next week...

We will be learning about and celebrating Diwali by making diyas, cooking Coconut Barfi and exploring Rangoli patterns. Whilst looking at the Rangoli patterns, as well as discovering the cultural origins we will look at shape and pattern to develop our maths skills too.

The children have shown an interest in magnets so we will look for magnetic materials and talk about what we find to make a hypothesis about what other items may or may not be magnetic and then explore and discuss our findings.