****  **Grove News –April/May 2024**

**’Bugs and Beasts'**

**This month we are thinking about ‘Minibeasts’ and ‘Big Animals’, following on from the children’s interest in looking for insects while playing outdoors, learning about different life cycles. We are also observing at close hand ‘Snails’ that keep escaping (!),’real’ chicks, lots of birds and squirrels in our playground and in The Folly and of course Snowy, our adopted school cat. We will soon be hatching our own butterflies and releasing them in the school grounds. We will also be producing some lovely art, relating to our topic. We are investigating different ‘patterns’ and ‘multi-coloured’ objects.**

**We will be continuing to plant more flowers and vegetables in our gardens, pots and greenhouse and (Harvie’s) Uncle Robert is coming from Davidson’s Nursery on Monday to help us. Our potatoes, beans and herbs are doing well with lots of rain and hoeing! Please post photos of your ‘magic bean’ growth on SeeSaw. We share these at Shine Time. We would still appreciate any plants, herbs or cuttings any keen gardener could provide.**

**We think that this topic reinforces the children’s understanding about time, size, length and height- comparing the size of animals, matching and sorting, noting patterns, counting legs, spots, wings etc. and finding ‘the same as’- important early mathematical concepts taught in a fun manner.**

**RUGBY TOTS**

**Justin will continue Rugby Tots every Thursday. The children are really excited and we have already been practising some skills! They are being encouraged to:**

* **listen to and follow instructions**
* **wait their turn and return to the ‘back’ of the line**
* **kick, catch and throw a ball**
* **work with a partner or as part of a team**
* **practise skills**
* **take care while running in the playground and looking out for others**

****

 **PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS**

**This month, we are offering all parents the opportunity to discuss their child’s progress and any difficulties they may be having, before moving on to Primary. These meetings should only last about 10 minutes. If you feel that there is no need to come, please do not feel under obligation. You will be receiving a detailed report in June. However, if staff have a concern, Mrs Gervais and Mrs Thompson will speak to you to arrange a time! Please sign the sheets in the Reception Hall, if you wish to ‘book’ a slot. w/c=29thApril. We can also phone you if that is more convenient.**

**EARLY CLOSURE**

**Next year’s children are coming for ‘play days’ on Monday 10th to Thursday 13th June. In order to set up the classroom for them, school will end at 1.00 pm on these 4 days. Lunches will be taken as usual on these days. Sorry for the disruption or re-organisation this may cause. Please let all collectors know about these arrangements. It certainly doesn’t seem like a year since you all had your nursery visit.**

**SPONSORED WALK & TEDDY BEARS’ PICNIC**

**As you will appreciate, we have tried to keep demands for money down to a minimum – just our End of Year Outing. Other ‘services’ we buy in to extend our curriculum e.g. Debbie Doolittle, Jurassic Ark, Mr Hullabaloo, Bouncy Castle and the increasing transport costs/hire of buses, we try to cover from the ‘School Fund’. We aim to have only one fund raising activity per year. This year we are hoping to walk around the Mall, and to make it ‘fun’, we are inviting ‘teddies’/small toys to join us. This event is weather permitting! We invite the whole extended family to meet us on The Mall before going on our walk with our siblings, friends and families.**

**This event is planned for FRIDAY 7th June. Children will be brought to The Mall by private coach but will be discharged from there at 1.00 p.m.**

**More details and sponsor forms later in the month. Please bring your lunch/your child’s lunch, picnic blankets and seats and join with us!**

**We also hope to give a donation to a local charity-Cruse Bereavement Care. The rest of the monies will be used to provide experiences for next year’s children.**

** PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

**In the Reception Hall, you will soon notice our new brightly coloured ‘Fit Kits’ which are available for parents to borrow. The children are enjoying the use of similar equipment in school. Please remember to sign your bag out and return on a Thursday with contents intact.**

**Thank You to Mrs Gervais for organising The Fit Kits.**

 **In this day of sedentary lifestyles, we are promoting an active way of life!**

**Please read your separate information sheet.**

**DITCH THE DUMMY**

**As the children are preparing to move on to ‘Big School’, we are encouraging them to see themselves as capable, independent children. One aspect that we would like to help you with, as parents, is that of discarding the use of dummies. We are providing a ‘branch’ in the entrance hall and the idea is that the ‘Dodi Fairy’ will visit to take all dummies away – now that the children are all grown up! The special branch will be here until the end of term (when the fairy moves on to another area or nursery!)**

**Feel free to hang dummies from any of your children, babies, cousins, etc. We will relate the story in nursery and The ‘Dodi Fairy’ promises to remove unneeded dummies regularly. Hopefully this idea may help to break habits!**

**A leaflet is available, if you need any advice as to the disadvantages of Dummies, in relation to speech development.**

**REMINDERS**

**\*We have noted that a large number children are beginning to ‘write’ their own names and some are using all upper case letters. Please remember that only the first letter of any name should be in upper case.**

**\* Final School Fund for May is £10-please see the list of planned activities for which we need your contributions! Remember we do not collect any money for School Fund in June.**

**\* We have exhausted our supply of kitchen rolls/boxes of tissues and ask for one contribution of either from each family. Many thanks in anticipation!**

****

**We have had a lot of visitors to school recently to view our practice and have some more yet to visit (especially, in relation to Promotion of Positive Self Worth). I want to congratulate all the children on their behaviour, manners, confidence to interact with visitors and engaged play? We have been extremely proud of each and every child and as parents, you have had an important role to play. As we tell the children “You are all fantastic!” This year’s children have a great sense of humour and are an affectionate ’cuddly’ cohort with smiley faces. We have lots of fun and laughter in school. Check out the weekly white board/website.**

**DATES FOR THE DIARY- Check out website**

**Every Thursday = Rugby Tots to 16th May**

**Monday 22nd April = Uncle Robert, planting veg.**

**Mon 29th – Wed 1st May = Parental Catch ups, if desired!**

**School is closed on Monday 6th May.**

**Visit from local Photographer Lynn Wortley for individual and class end of year photos. Family Groups can be arranged. Please mention this to Mrs Thompson, if interested. Check out Lynn’s beautiful photos on line!**

**Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd May = Sept.2024 New Intake Interviews**

**Mon 27th– Second Bank Holiday - School Closed**

 **Visit from Jurassic Ark Encounters, Date to be confirmed. Check out the website- we will post the date as soon as we know.**

**Advanced Notices**

**Friday 7th June= Sponsored Walk & Family & Teddy Bears’ Picnic**

**Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th June -**

**School ends 1.00 p.m. sharp. Afternoon Play Days for new intake.**

**Friday 14th June- ‘Graduation’ Afternoon & Singalong @12.30 p.m.**

**Thursday 20th June ‘All Day’ Outing to Streamvale Farm (3.00p.m) Details later, nearer to the time.**