

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome to our latest newsletter, I cannot believe how quickly this half term has gone!

Thank you to all of you who supported our Christmas activities back in December, thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity we managed to raise an amazing £497.16

We had many of our parents, families and local businesses donate items for our raffles and cake stall - it is all very much appreciated.

Thank you all for continuing to comment and add to your child's tapestry account. It is so lovely to see what the children get up to when they are out of school.

If any of you have, or know of families with younger children we will soon be looking at admissions for the next academic year, please register children through reception.

We are running our Library Explorers scheme again during the half term between February and Easter, please do take part if you can. We would like to increase the number of children at Caverstede who borrow books from our Library. For those of you who have not yet borrowed any books please do take a look at the books that are available to borrow, there is a board outside each classroom with a selection for you and your child/ren to choose from, please ask classroom staff for help if you require any further information.

I do hope you are finding the Knowledge Organisers a useful resource, they are there to advise you of the key themes your child/ren are focussing on in their class. I know some parents find them useful to know what their child is covering for example which core story, rhymes and key vocabulary. If you want to know more about our Knowledge Organisers please look on our website: Caverstede Nursery School; Curriculum; Knowledge Organisers.

As you are all aware we had a visit from two Ofsted Inspectors on the 23rd and 24th January. We would all like to thank you for the support you offered us, during those two days. Currently I am unable to reveal the outcome, but as soon as Ofsted say we can inform you, we will.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you all back week beginning Monday 26th February.

*Debbie*

### TERM DATES 2023 - 2024

#### SPRING TERM

**Classes close** Friday 16th February

**Half term** 19th - 23rd February

**Classes start** Monday 26th February

**Classes close** Thursday 28th March

#### SUMMER TERM

**Classes start** Monday 15th April

**May Day** Monday 6th May

**Classes close** Friday 24th May

**Half term** 27th - 31st May

**Classes start** Monday 3rd June

**Classes close** Friday 19th July

### Tapestry

Don't forget to add to and read your child's Tapestry online learning journal. We look forward to seeing what you have been doing at home!



**Security & Safeguarding;** Mobile phones and personal cameras are only permitted to be used at in the school reception and parent café and NOT in the Nursery garden. It is important that you do not use your phone whilst settling your child into nursery or when dropping off and collecting your child. We thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



## Ladybirds

Our core story this half term has been “Little Tom and the Trip to the Moon” and the children have enjoyed a variety of Space themed activities. In the class, we have been exploring space through small world play, using our new space station to explore ideas around space. We have also explored colour and texture through tactile and creative activities, making rocket ships and exploring alien slime. Outdoors, the children have enjoyed making their very own rocket ship, adding controls, oxygen tanks and anti-gravity boots through junk modelling activities. We have also conducted science experiments to make ‘rocket fuel’. The topic has sparked a lot of talk around the night, space and imagining going on adventures.

We have also been on many space adventures in the woodland garden this half term and the children have hunted for planets to match, made rockets with loose parts play and used tools to explore “space rocks”. They have also continued to explore our regular woodland activities such as the hammock, mud kitchen and digging pod. Could we please remind all parents to make sure that your child has the appropriate clothing to keep them warm in this winter weather, such as a hat, gloves and warm coat. We provide puddle suits and wellies, but welcome children to bring their own.

Next term our core story will be “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt” to continue our creative thinking and speaking through adventure play.

We hope you all have a lovely half term and thank you for your continued support.

The Ladybird Team

## Buzzy Bee class

Our core Story of “Whatever Next” linking with the theme of space has been a fabulous success in capturing the children’s imagination and fascination. The children have naturally been curious about the planets and space, and have been wanting to learn the names of the Sun, Moon, Star, Earth and other planets. They have engaged in role play in both our indoor and outdoor rocket role play areas, enjoying dressing up as astronauts. Their counting down from 5 has become excellent and some amazing rocket sound effects can be heard during their play!

Children have been making their own jet packs as part of their role play and model making, using bottles and boxes to make them, often strapped to their back. Their imagination and creativity in building has also been seen by the elaborate rockets, spaceships and vehicles being built in the block area and with various construction materials, such as Lego, Knex and Mobilo.

We have had a wealth of stories and factual books on offer based on space and the children have loved looking at these, talking about the pictures and finding out new facts. The children have gained other favourite books alongside ‘Whatever Next’ including the story ‘To the Moon and Back’. The children are able to recall parts of the story ‘Whatever Next’, talk about the characters and what they get up to.

The children have loved exploring the ice in the garden, helping set out pans of water to freeze over night and then breaking it up the next day! A true natural science experiment!

Woodland days continue to be a fabulous adventure for the children, they enjoy swinging in the hammock, finding the lost items and fitting them back together each week. They have enjoyed using tools to create things, and to dig. We must thank you for sending the children with hats, gloves, coats and scarves, this ensures the children are toasty warm even on some of the coldest days!

Next half term we look forward to reading the story ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ and focusing on growing, hoping that by the end of the summer term we will have some plants to harvest, or at the very least having seen their flowers grow!



## Butterflies

This half term, we have been looking at and listening to the story 'Whatever Next!' by Jill Murphy. The children have been enjoying this story and learning about the main characters. We have a tuff tray with the characters and small world props so the children can use them to retell the story. We have drawn bears, mixed brown paint, painted bears, made play dough bears, used flat and solid shapes to create rockets. We have talked about the stars, moon and the planets. The children have been dressing up as astronauts and pretending to blast off into space in their rockets inside and outside in the garden. The children have looked at and listened to many different books about space and bears including 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We have been using boxes and recyclable items to make and build rockets. The children have sung our songs 'Five Little Men', 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear' and 'Zoom, Zoom, Zoom'. This week we have been looking at different types of technology and learning how to keep ourselves safe as part of 'Safer Internet Week'.

The children really enjoyed a visit from Bertie the dog who belongs to Katy. They all like to have a stroke and sometimes give him a treat if they want.

We have done several woodland sessions with Ali in the Woodland garden. The children have been practising putting on their wet suits and wellies. Also they have been playing in the mud kitchen, using real spades in the digging pod, sweeping leaves with brushes, doing various scavenger hunts for different things, using the binoculars to spot birds as part of 'Bird Watching Week' and using magnifying glasses. The children have been really enjoying playing and exploring in this area.

Next week we will be making pancakes and have them for snack on Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) and finding out about how Chinese New Year is celebrated. We are currently making our dragon ready for our dragon dance.

Next term – Spring 2 our new core story is the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely break.

Emily and The Butterfly Team

### Parentmail App

We have recently sent out a text with details of how to set up receiving email notifications on the Parentmail app. This included images of each screen to help you get to the right area to request this.

If you have any problems getting this arranged or need some help with accessing your Parentmail account, please do ask at reception.

Information, documents and attachments (including invoices) will be sent by email on Parentmail as this give greater security when sending messages out.

### MISSING SCHOOL IS MISSING OUT - EVERY DAY COUNTS!!

Attending school **every day** is very important. Even a short time of absence from school can mean that a child misses out on a significant part of the curriculum, which can impact on their learning. Ofsted always ask for the school's attendance data. We monitor each child's attendance and absence record and you will receive copies of this information. **If your child is ill and will not be attending school please telephone the school on the day of absence to inform us. We have a duty of care to follow up any unadvised absence and will contact you 30 minutes after the session start time if we have not heard from you. This could be by telephone, Parentmail or visit.** Thank you.

**Snack;** Thank you to those parents who have made a voluntary contribution towards the cost of providing a daily, healthy snack to the children. Due to the rising costs of food, as well as everything else, we have asked if parents could consider a voluntary contribution of up to £5 per term to support this. If you would like to make a contribution, you can make a cash payment at reception or you can ask for our bank details to pay into. As always, your support is very much appreciated. We would like to highlight that this is a voluntary contribution and no child will be denied this snack.

## Keeping safe and considerate parking

If you drive to Caverstede, could we please ask that you park with care and **avoid double parking or parking on yellow lines**. This is illegal and makes the road dangerous for all the children and families who are using it.



**There is also a disabled parking bay at the front of the nursery which is there for the use of those who need this facility so please do not park here. Please follow the guidelines for use of disabled parking badges if you do have one - for example, blue badge holders should not park in the bay if they are just waiting and do not plan to leave their car.**

Please also consider our neighbours along Caverstede Road and avoid parking across driveways or on the grass verges.



## Caverstede Library

Thank you to those parents who have completed our recent Library survey. We will be looking through the comments to see how we can improve the borrowing experience for all and hopefully encourage more to start using the library too. We will firstly be looking to add to the range of books available each half term so there should be lots still to choose from.

Some parents were asking for books of specific topics, such as potty training, space and kindness. We have a wide range of books covering lots of different subjects and will be putting together a list. In the meantime, if there is something you would like to borrow, please ask at reception and we can look at what we have available. We wouldn't be adding these to the library boards currently as we generally don't have lots of copies of these specific subject books. We would also want to ensure that these are returned to us as unfortunately, not all books come back to the library.

Some parents have also said that they don't borrow books as they wouldn't want them to get damaged. We understand that books can get damaged easily and by accident so please don't let this put you off. If you have any concerns, perhaps borrowing board books would be better. We have a range on the Ladybird class boards but have more in the library if anyone from the other classes would prefer to borrow board books – although we have learnt that board books can also be damaged!

We will be looking at other suggestions made to see how we can develop and encourage the love of books for all. Currently, it wouldn't be practical to open the library for browsing during drop off and pick up times as it is quite small and not easy to accommodate everyone.

Please keep an eye out for changes and the new books to borrow. If you don't currently borrow books, you can start to use the library at any time. We do ask that a book bag be used to keep books clean and dry when you take them home. We have bags to buy at reception costing £4 each but have also given out clear, plastic bags when children have started at Caverstede. If you still have these at home, they are ideal to use. However, please speak to us if you don't have one still or need any support with using the library.

Well done to those who were 'Library Explorers' in the Autumn term. We have been giving out the books for you to keep which you have earned by borrowing during the Library Explorer time period. Our next Library Explorers scheme will run after the February half term break so you have chance to become a 'Library Explorer' again or maybe for the first time.

And just a reminder that if you do still have any books at home that have been borrowed in the Autumn term, please can you return them as soon as possible please? If you would like to check what books you might have logged out, please ask at reception. Thank you.



**Smoking and vaping:** Caverstede Nursery School is a no smoking zone and this also includes the use of electronic/vapour cigarettes.

At no time is smoking or the use of electronic/vapour cigarettes permitted anywhere on Caverstede Nursery School premises, including the carpark, or near to premises entrances.