

Welcome back to Nursery! I hope you all had a good break over the Christmas holidays and a very warm welcome to our new children and their families who have joined Caverstede this term.

Thank you to all of you who supported our Christmas Fayre, thanks to everyone's hard work and generosity we managed to raise £385. This money, along with previously raised funds and donations will be going towards improvements to our Woodland Garden.

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. Please do remember that if your child is off school due to COVID-19 related issues, the teachers do put activities, stories and songs on their Tapestry account for you.

Thank you to all parents / carers for continuing to wear face coverings during drop off and collection, we do have many cases of COVID-19 within pupils and staff and I am sure that this will help to reduce the spread.

Debbie

### Library Explorers



### Borrowing library books from the Caverstede library

Our Library Explorers scheme will start again after the February half term break. Borrow books during the time

this is running and at the end of this, you will receive a brand new book to take home, keep and enjoy! If you've not yet borrowed any books, why not take a look at the many we have available. The selection is changed each term but if you have any favourite subjects or stories, please let us know and we can try and look to see if we have any books that you will enjoy. You will need a book bag to borrow books so that they can be kept clean, dry and safe. We have given out plastic bags initially but also have plain book bags available to buy from reception for £4.

### Term Dates for the rest of the school year

#### **Spring term**

Half Term; 14th - 18th February 2022  
Classes close; Friday 1st April 2022

#### **Summer term**

Classes start; Wednesday 20th April 2022  
May Day; Monday 2nd May 2022  
Classes close; Thursday 26th May 2022  
**(nursery closed Fri 27th May)**  
Half Term; 27th May - 3rd June 2022  
Classes close; Friday 22nd July 2022

### INSET days (staff training days - nursery closed)

Tuesday 19th April

WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

3 MARCH 2022

25 YEARS

**World Book Day** this year is 3rd March. We will let you know what activities there will be in nursery. We will be having the author, Ellie Sandall, visit us over the next term and she will do lots of activities with the children around illustrations and story telling.

You can buy books from Scholastic books - follow this link <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/caverstede/digital-book-club>

Please click on the picture above to get to the World Book Day website for lots of information and activities. We will also be giving out the World Book Day vouchers soon.

### **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!

## IMPORTANT!

We realise that the beginning and end of the sessions are very busy. Please make sure you keep hold of your child once you have collected them and before you leave the school.

For your child's safety and the safety of others, please make sure that you **close the gates after you**.



**Security & Safeguarding;** Mobile phones and personal cameras are only permitted to be used at in the school reception and parent café. 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.

**Ladybird class**

This half term in Ladybirds our core story is "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" by Michael Rosen. The children are really engaging with the story and are beginning to retell it independently. We have been supporting this through physical activities such as a Bear Hunt assault course, creative activities such as Swishy swishy grass painting and bear masks, and imaginative activities such as a bear hunt small world tray. Once again, this half term we are promoting independence by encouraging the children to try and put on their own coats and pulling on their wellies or shoes. Thank you to the parents supporting us by doing this at home, as it is really supporting the children's confidence in this area. This term our Woodland Day is going to be Tuesday and Woodland Julie has been visiting our class to get to know the children. They have enjoyed exploring the Woodland garden in small groups and making cheerio bird feeders for bird watching week.

Finally, the Ladybird team would like to thank our parents for continuing to support us throughout the year, we really appreciate it.

**Butterfly class**

We are reading a traditional tale 'The Gingerbread Man' as our core story for this half term. The children are really enjoying hearing and joining in with this story. We have chosen one version as there are several different stories and we will be hearing many of them. We will talk about what is the same and different with each one. The children are exploring some new words in this story including bakery, thistles, dizzy and milk churns. We will look at ginger, try a ginger biscuit and attempt to make/bake our own gingerbread people. The children are starting to help with retelling of the story and asking questions or making comments about it. We have collected small world characters, made stick puppets and masks to allow the children to use them for retelling or making up their own stories. Also props have been added to the home corner including mixing bowl, wooden spoon, cardboard gingerbread men and old packets of ingredients so the children can pretend to mix their own. The children are enjoying making gingerbread people using brown play dough and cutters with beads to decorate them. We will be practicing mixing brown paint so we can have a go at painting gingerbread people before decorating them.

Our Woodland Day this term is Wednesday. Last term the children really enjoyed working with Woodland Julie and exploring the Woodland garden as well as learning new skills. This term we will be doing activities including bird watching, making bird seed cake, playing with mud, digging and retelling our story 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have been continuing singing lots of songs and rhymes some which are familiar to the children as well as some new ones! The children love singing and joining in with some of the actions.

**Buzzy Bee class**

This half term we are reading many versions of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. The story really has embraced the children's imagination, and we have lots of role play happening both in the classroom and the nursery garden. Children are using props to retell the story, either by themselves, or within a group. The children have been distinguishing their voice for the different characters as they re enact the story, showing a good awareness of expression, and the different characters. We have looked at all different types of Trolls and Ogres, discussing whether they are friendly or not, looking at different and similar features of the various trolls we have found from stories, tv and film.

We will be taking part in bird watching week, with lots of activities around making binoculars, looking after the birds in our gardens, and identifying the birds we see fly over and around Caverstede. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year, with a wide variety of activities and experiences, from noodle bar in the garden, to creating a large 3D Dragon. We will be reading and listening to the story of the how each year was named after an animal. Our Woodland day is now on a Thursday and the children have been having a wonderful time, digging for worms, and much more.

# CAVERSTEDE GOVERNING BOARD

Have you thought about becoming  
a Parent Governor at our school?

You could develop skills in communication;  
decision making; confidence building;  
finance and HR matters plus much more.

It's a great addition to your CV and an  
opportunity to be involved with the  
strategic management of the school

Training is available in many aspects of the  
governor role

A school governors role involves  
contributing to the work of the  
governing board in ensuring high  
standards of achievement for all  
children in the school by;

- Setting the school's visions, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and it's pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure it's money is well spent



What do I need to be able to offer;

- Time
- Commitment to the role
- Willingness to learn
- Ability to work as a team
- A listening ear
- Be able to ask questions, make judgements and take decisions



We currently have Parent Governor vacancies and are looking to fill these roles on our Governing Board.

Further details on how to apply are being sent out on Parentmail, including a self nomination form. If you would like to join our board and would like to know more, please do not hesitate to ask at reception for either the Headteacher, Debbie or Clerk to the Governing Board, Jackie.

Self nomination forms should be returned by Monday 21st February with a view to joining the next governing board meeting on Wednesday 2nd March, 6.15pm (on Microsoft Teams) if successful.





# A parent's guide to.....

## Mathematics - Part 1



Counting is a key skill for young children to learn, and there is much that you can do at home to help your child grasp some of the mathematical ideas that they will use for the rest of their lives. The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014, states :

***'Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. '*

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, Mathematics is sub divided into the following specific areas of learning and development:

- Numbers
- Shape, space and measures

### Supporting maths at home

Here are some suggestions of activities that you can do with your child at home to develop their early mathematical skills.

#### Routines:

Use routine times such as bedtime and bath time to develop mathematical ideas. For example,

- Count the buttons on shirts or blouses as you fasten or unfasten them on your child's clothes.
- Count the number of Velcro straps on your child's shoes as they put them on and take them off.
- Compare the size and shape of different containers in the bath and the heaviness of containers when filled with water.
- Use tidy up time to sort items e.g. 'put the trains in the green tub, put the cars in the red box.'

#### Mealtimes:

Encourage your child to help prepare meals. For example, let them:

- Help you weigh ingredients.
- Find the best size of pot for cooking potatoes.
- Ensure that everyone has a knife, fork and spoon or cup and plate.



#### Outdoors:

Look out for ways to talk about mathematics when you are outdoors, such as going to the park or to the supermarket. For example,

- Draw their attention to numbers and shapes in shops, on packaging, on houses, or on road signs and buses.
- Count trees, cars or recycling bins.

#### Other activities:

- Play board games with your child .
- If your child goes upstairs count the steps together.

