

Dear Parent /Carer

We have had a very busy term, with visits from Bertie—the dog, Ellie Sandall the author of ‘Every Bunny Dance,’ who shared her new book ‘Balancing Bernie’ with the children. We also had a visit from Peterborough United Football Club, I do hope that many of you take up the offer of the free Peterborough United POSH tickets.

For the children in the Buzzy Bees and Butterflies it is not long now before you will find out if you have received your school of choice, when you are informed can you please let us know, we will be sending out a survey for you to complete. We need this information in order to ensure effective transitions to your child’s new school.

With this newsletter we have included a copy of ‘A parents guide to ...learning to write’. It gives you helpful hints and tips. On our website there are more helpful guides for you to access, in the Parents section, ‘Homework’ - How to help your child at home.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter.

*Debbie*

### Library Explorer



### Borrowing library books from the Caverstede library

If you have been a Library Explorer this half term, then your new book will be given out when we return after the Easter Holidays (20th April)

Our Summer Library Explorers scheme will then start on Monday 25th April and run until 23rd May. So you still have time to enjoy the many books that we have in the library. We will be changing the selection available ready for when we return after Easter so there will be lots more to choose from.

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

#### **Spring term**

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

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

Tuesday 19th April

### **Easter Fundraising**

Thank you for supporting our fundraising. Don't forget to pick up your Easter egg/gift if you have won in our raffle!



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MAY HALF TERM STARTS FRIDAY 27th MAY - CLASSES WILL CLOSE ON THURSDAY 26th**



### **Peterborough United tickets!**

Following a very exciting visit from Peterborough United's mascot recently, we have been given the opportunity for everyone to have 2 FREE tickets to a match on Friday

15th April.

We have sent details of how to get these out to everyone on Parentmail so don't forget to do this and have the chance to go to the football match!

### **Nursery places September 2022**

We are now allocating our spaces for September.

If you know anyone looking for a nursery place for their 2, 3 or 4 year old, please ask them to get in touch with us **NOW** for a registration form.



**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

In Ladybirds, our core story continues to be 'Old MacDonald had a farm'. The children are enjoying learning about baby animals and role-playing farms. In the garden, we have continued to make our own assault courses and challenged a wide range of physical skills. For Science week the children enjoyed exploring the properties of mud and water, which resulted in a lot of sticky laughter!

During this half term we have celebrated Mothers Day, for which the children made some cards with beautiful observational paintings of flowers. They enjoyed using the finger paints and getting messy! They have also been learning about Easter, exploring objects and books linked to it. We have also had a visit from the Easter Bunny and had a cinema experience where we watched Easter films.

The children have also enjoyed our weekly visits from woodland Julie. They have been exploring the Woodland Garden, planting bulbs and decorating Easter eggs with natural objects found. They have also begun to learn how to use the mud kitchen and its equipment.

A big thank you to all parents for providing wellies and appropriate clothing every Tuesday. Watch out for information about our new woodland day next term.

Finally Ladybird staff would like to wish all our children and families a restful Easter and we will see you all after the holidays when our new core story will be "The Very Hungry Caterpillar".

### Butterfly class

We are reading 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen as our core story for this half term. The children are really enjoying hearing and joining in with this story. They are exploring some new words in this story including bean, seed, hoe, rake and beanstalk. Also we have been reading various versions of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We have pictures, puppets and small world figures so the children can retell these stories.

We have been looking at different types of bean seeds and talking about things including size, colours and patterns. We have planted some runner bean seeds and are waiting for them to grow! The children are making lots of beanstalks. We have used scissors to cut strips, cut out leaf shapes, scrunched paper, made green paper chains and printed green handprints. We are growing a very long beanstalk around the classroom.

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 have been looking at signs of Spring, planting bulbs, digging for worms in the digging pod and using the magnifying glasses to look for mini-beasts.

We have been continuing singing lots of songs and rhymes some which are familiar to the children as well as some new ones 'Ten Little Beanstalks' and 'I'm a Little Bean'. The children love singing, joining in with some of the actions and playing musical instruments to accompany the singing.

The children have experienced Pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) as we made pancakes from play dough, had pancake races, made pancake batter and had pancakes for snack.

We read lots of books and talked about different characters as part of World Book Day. Many of children brought in their favourite books for us to read and enjoy!

We did a variety of experiments during British Science Week. The children have been looking for red things, making things using red play dough, having a Monster Disco and having red foods for snack for Red Nose Day – Comic Relief. We will be moving on to learn about Mothers Day and Easter. It has been a very busy half term!

### Buzzy Bee class

The Buzzy Bees have had a great term exploring lots of different experiences related to our core story of Jack and the Beanstalk. Experiences have included creating beanstalks using different media- wood or paper, creating their own giants on large paper, growing beans- which you may see growing on the classroom window! We've read various versions of the story, comparing and contrasting the way the story is told.

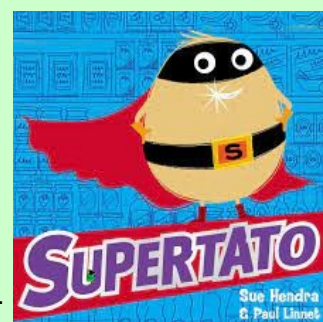
The children embraced our visit from Ellie Sandall during World Book week, and have talked about it a lot afterwards, recalling the story Balancing Bernie, and relating it to the visit from Bertie the dog a few days later where we tried to balance some of his soft toys too!

'Peter Burrow's' visit from Peterborough United Football team was highly exciting, and the children embraced the opportunity to interact with him, dance with him and generally enjoyed being part of a whole school event. Thank you to all the families who joined in with the World book day event by sending in favourite books, or dressing up, and 'Peter Burrow' certainly noticed those dressed up in their football kits too!

For Easter the children have taken part in many experiences including talking about why people celebrate Easter, lots of arts and crafts and a visit from the Easter Bunny which led to an Easter Egg hunt.

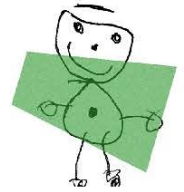
We also had a 'Caverstede Cinema experience' where the children 'paid' for a ticket to visit the Caverstede cinema. The staff replicate a cinema experience as close as possible in our Caverstede room, with the lights off, and viewing "The Gruffalo's child" on a big screen. The children had a snack of crisps from a cone and drank their drink whilst watching the film.

Next half term we will be focusing on the book Supertato by Paul Linnet and Sue Hendra.



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

Some of your children will be attempting to write letters and numbers, especially the ones due to start school in September. If this is the case often the first word children learn to write is their name.



It is important to remember that children show an interest in mark making at different stages, so please do not worry if your child has not yet shown an interest. If you are not sure whether it is the right time for your child to start learning how to write their name please talk to their Key Person.

## Here are some key points for you to remember:

- ✓ Your child may be happy to scribble, draw and make marks, often this will be on a large scale
- ✓ Before a child can write they need to develop their gross and fine motor skills for them to be able to hold a pencil, so let them play with toys and resources that help develop their arm, hand and finger muscles (more on this in the next newsletter)
- ✓ Always encourage and praise your child for any mark making they complete, this will give them the confidence to continue
- ✓ Let your child write and draw with a variety of pencils, crayons, pens etc.
- ✓ As your child experiments with making marks encourage your child to say what their 'writing' means — often they will be able to tell you!
- ✓ Try to let your child see you writing and drawing, they will want to copy you!

When helping your child use large letters first, as below, add the dot so they know where to start, further dots for them to follow and use a light colour for them to trace over



At Caverstede we use the following letter formation for lower case letters

## Please remember the following when supporting your child:

- ✓ Always use lower case letters (as in the table to the right) other than a CAPITAL letter for the first letter of your child's name
- ✓ Always start the letter where the dot is on the letter (as in the table to the right)
- ✓ Other than letters f k t x try not to take your pencil off the paper from start to finish
- ✓ We always start at the dot and then go anti clockwise on the following letters c o a d g q

