



Message from Head of Centre



Welcome to the first of our summer term newsletters, this term is a busy term so far we have already had 'Messy Play' week, 'Maths' week, 'Deaf Awareness' week, May-pole dancing, African Drummers and of course our 70th Celebration. As you will see in the dates section on page 2, we have more exciting events to come including our family trip to Burghley and Sports day at Itter Park. Thank you to all of you who continue to support our events staff and children do enjoy your support.

I hope you are hearing your children discussing their involvement in Mini e-Cadets, they certainly seem to be enjoying the activities. We are entering a couple of films about safe use of the internet that the children have created into the Film Awards this year (as well as six others on different themes!). Watch this space for information as to whether we win!

I am disappointed to have to remind you not to park in the disabled parking bay. I know the majority of parents are considerate but we have a few people who are not. You may be in a hurry or running late but that bay is just for blue badge holders only. We have had a few instances of illegal parking recently. We do have routine visits from the Traffic Wardens and police to check on the parking outside our school, I am sure some of you will have seen them. Please do park considerately and don't get a parking ticket.

Debbie



Now the weather is starting to get warmer - and hopefully, sunny! -

please don't forget suncream and sun hats. The sun cream will need to be labelled, please speak to your child's keyworker about this. If you don't have a sun cap, we do have some 'Caverstede' legionnaires sun caps available at reception. These cost £3.60. If you do buy one for nursery, please remember to write your child's name inside the hat so that we don't get any mix ups!

Attendance at nursery is so important, please help us to improve last terms attendance by sending your child regularly. Spring term our overall attendance was 85%, lets try really hard to improve this and help your child to be ready for school by attending every session.

**MISSING SCHOOL IS MISSING OUT
EVERY DAY COUNTS!!**

Security & Safeguarding

Mobile phones and personal cameras are not permitted to be used at Caverstede Early Years Centre. It is important that you do not use your phone whilst settling your child into nursery. If you need to take a call please step outside the centre gate. We thank you for your co-operation in this



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Library Explorers



Thank you to everyone who has taken part in our Library Explorers scheme this year. On our next newsletter I will be able to give you the totals of children who have used the scheme over the year. I am very pleased with the number of children who have been taking part and due to its success we will continue the scheme next academic year. For those of you who have been collecting stamps on your card please give the card into Reception so we can arrange to give you your book to keep and enjoy. We hope that you continue to use the Library during the summer term. There are also lots of different books to enjoy from the library too but if there is a particular subject your child enjoys, please let us know as we have lots more!



Caverstede is 70!

We opened in 1946 so have now entered our 70th year. We celebrated this on Saturday 14th May and welcomed past, present and hopefully, future children, families and staff.

Thank you to everyone who came along and helped us to celebrate. We all had a wonderful morning of entertainment

with African drummers, Rhapsody Chorus, Dusty Millar, stories and activities and the weather was also kind to us! The Mayor and Lady Mayoress came to share the day with us and had their photographs taken with our cake. Our first Head teacher - Betty Hay OBE, joined us too and gave a lovely speech and cut our fantastic celebration cake.



Mobile phone numbers;

Please make sure that we have your up to date mobile number on contact details held in the classroom and on your ParentMail account. This is important so that we can contact you regarding your child immediately and also advise you of any urgent message by ParentMail. Change of contact detail forms are available at reception.

Diary Dates

African Drummers	Wednesday 25th May
Last day of half term	Friday 27th May
Children return	Monday 6th June
Communication week	6th—10th June
Whole school trip to Burghley	Friday 17th June
Group class photos	Monday 27th June
Film Awards	Tuesday 28th June
Mud Day	Wednesday 29th June
Parent Consultations	4th—8th July
Walk to School week	4th—8th July
Sports Day	Tuesday 5th July
Last day of term	Friday 22nd July

In the classrooms, **each child has their own pigeonhole for information**, letters etc so please remember to check these every day that your child attends nursery as there may be something important in there for you.



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





Buzzy Bee

This half term we have been busy practising and performing for the May Pole dancing- thank you to so many that came and joined us for our performance on the 4th May. Currently in the Buzzy Bees we are focusing on the story of Jack and the Beanstalk. We are planting and growing our very own beanstalks with the Woodland garden, and are waiting to see how tall they grow! We have been measuring ourselves in our key groups and been comparing heights. We have been retelling and acting out the story, as well as looking at various versions of the story, and noticing the differences of how each story ends.

Ladybird

This half term we have been reading the Nick Sharatt books 'Pants' and 'Socks'. The children have enjoyed making their own stripy sock patterns. Some of the children have drawn their own sock pictures. As the weather is getting warmer, please remember to apply sun screen to your child before they come to nursery and provide a bottle for us to reapply. Our policy is that children are unable to play outside without sun screen applied. We also ask you bring in a named hat. There will be lots of opportunities for water play, so please remember to send a spare set of clothes for your child to change into. After half term, we will be looking at growing, with stories such as 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'Jasper's beanstalk' and 'Jack and the beanstalk'. We will be growing some sunflowers and cress.

During the week beginning 6th June, we are inviting parents to come in for a Communication, Language and Literacy week where we will be focusing on lots of activities to support early reading, writing, speaking and listening skills and give you some ideas to try at home. Please see Naomi to sign up for a time slot.

Butterfly

This term we will be continuing our theme of growing. We will be planting and looking after veg on Woodland days and going on bug hunts. We will also be having caterpillars and watching them change into butterflies and recording this. Our core story will be 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

We continue to develop our musical talents through the visit from the African drummers and music and dance sessions. Another focus will be around counting so please ask your Key Person if you would like any support at home.

Sport Relief

We raised £217.64 for Sport Relief by Shimmying with Timmy, taking part in obstacle courses in the garden, covering Timmy with our spare coins and - of course, enjoying lots of lovely cakes.

A very big thank you to everyone who helped us on the day by either donating coins, buying cakes or donating cakes. It is all very much appreciated and goes towards helping lots of good causes.



Lucky Easter Egg Squares

Thank you to everyone who bought a lucky Easter egg square. We raised a wonderful £106 which will be used towards new resources for the centre.

Lunches

Please let us know if your child will be absent from nursery and therefore not be in for lunch by 9.15am as this helps to prevent waste.

You will be charged for the lunch if we do not receive notice in time.

Dad's Group; this group runs every other Saturday, 10 - 11.30am. The cost is £2 per family and is for children aged 0 - 7 years old and their dad's, granddad, uncle or other male carer.

Next dates are; 18th June; 2nd and 16th July



We have a Facebook page - Official Caverstede Early Years Centre.
Please request to be added.