



Heath Lane Nursery School
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Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Yendell

6th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely week at Heath Lane-the response to the Scavenger Hunt and the number of you who joined us for shared reading has reminded us how lucky we are to have such engaging parents. Between the ages of 3 and 18 children only spend between 14-18% of their life at school. Therefore, the home environment is key in the supporting children's education. Strong collaboration between home and school is essential - thank you for being so great to work with!

Promoting a love of reading

Promoting a love of reading is a current school priority and since September we have put the following in place:

- Developed the story sacks for home learning
- Provided a short video clip for parents on how to use story sacks
- Key groups read a story sack across a week and immerse themselves in the story
- Every group has an interactive display of props to support the retelling of stories
- Every key group has a basket of books to swap and take home
- Staff have received training on delivering phase 1 phonics
- We have developed active phonics packs so that every group carries out at least one specific phonics session a day

Next Steps

We will be

- providing a home learning clip for parents to support with the understanding of phase 1 phonics
- continuing to develop story sacks and widen the range of non-fiction texts

Please look at our Facebook vote and give us feedback on how well you feel we support you with encouraging your child's reading and do leave comments with any suggestions for further support we could offer.

Scavenger Hunt

We were delighted with the response to the Scavenger hunt! Today we announced the winner; Jake in Badger group! However, it was a really close competition and we hope that you all enjoyed getting out and



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about in half term. It also raised enough money to purchase a large chalk board for our mud kitchen. We will share photos when it is in place. A big thank you to the PTA for organising.

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

We had a great day yesterday. It was lovely to see so many of you coming in at the start of the session and sharing a book with your child. We were really proud of how well the children coped with the change of routine. Lots of children enjoyed swapping their books - we are thinking of doing this more regularly so that children can keep accessing new books with no expense to yourselves.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance

The government expectation is that Nursery children should have an attendance of 95%. As a school we have a duty to ensure that children's attendance is as high as possible. It is well researched that children thrive when they are in school regularly; they benefit from consistency and their learning is developed over a series of experiences and activities. The key person carefully plans sessions to meet the needs of individuals and groups and it is not always possible to repeat these sessions or experiences.

I have reviewed the attendance of all children in the school and next week I will be writing to parents of children where attendance is significantly below the expected threshold. Please look at the attached document on attendance and note what your child will miss out on if their attendance falls below the expected threshold. Please do come to us if there is anything we can do to support you with improving your child's attendance.

Suggested Activity for Home

Yesterday the children really enjoyed watching the video clip of the famous author, Michael Rosen, reading his book 'We're going on a Bear Hunt!' This can be found on YouTube or just use the link below:

[Michael Rosen – We're Going on a Bear Hunt!](#)

Please watch with your child and encourage them to join in with the words or the actions - or both!

Have a lovely weekend!

With kind regards,

Hayley Yendell

Headteacher