

# Nursery Newsletter 04.02.22



## Song of the Week

This week we have been singing the song 'Kung Hei Fatt Choi' to celebrate Chinese New Year. Can you teach the song to your family at home?



## Our Week

We have had a lovely week in Nursery. We have been learning all about Chinese New Year. We have listened to the Zodiac story, and re-enacted this using animal masks. We also made some beautiful Chinese lanterns, celebration cards and looked at some different types of Chinese food.

Can you tell your family about Chinese New Year?

## Maths



In maths this week we have been having fun doing lots of different number games. We especially enjoyed playing 'Pass the giant dice!' and using our fingers to represent these numbers. Can you play any number games at home?

## Sound of the Week

Our Sound of the Week next week will be 'g'.

Please continue to sing the Jolly Phonics songs at home for these

sounds. These can be found on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Can you bring in an object from home for our Sound Table that begins with 'g'



## Label belongings



Please can you label or write names in all your child's belongings that they may bring into school including their water bottle.

Many thanks,

The Nursery Team



**Ladybird** - Emma Rose, Janette Gayle and Usha Goomany

**Butterfly** - Anastasia Owusu, Gina Collingridge

Jaci Doherty working throughout both classrooms



### **Information for parents**

We have outlined some of the information and expectations / recommendations on parental involvement below. Please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Rose or Ms Owusu if you need any extra clarification or support.

### **Changes to collection of morning children**

From Monday 24th January the green gate will be open for parents to collect their child from the classroom. All morning children from Nursery will be in Ladybird classroom. We will open the gate at 11.50am so you are able to talk to the class teacher and retrieve any lost items from either classroom, if this is not necessary please arrive by 12. Please ensure you are on time as the teachers need the full 45 minutes to set up their classrooms and have lunch.

### **Google Classroom**

Google Classroom is our online platform for sending you information videos that are too large to send via email. We have only uploaded two items so far: one is an instructional video on how to use Tapestry (please see below if you are unfamiliar with Tapestry). The second is two Parent Workshops. Your google classroom logins should have all been handed to your children. Please let us know if you have not received them. It is really important that you check Google Classroom regularly to stay up to date with your child's learning.

### **Tapestry**

Tapestry is a secure online system we will be using as our online learning journal provider. Tapestry allows you to login with a secure username and password so you can view all your children's observations, photographs and videos. You can like and comment on observations that we add for your child and it's also possible for you to add your own observations. (Please see video on Google Classroom)

#### **How do I access these?**

Once we have set you up with an account you will be able to login using any web browser from [tapestryjournal.com](http://tapestryjournal.com) or by downloading the Tapestry app from the Play or App store, depending on what type of device you are using. Remember, if you are going to use the App version of Tapestry to ensure auto updates are turned on for your device so you always have the most up to date version of the app.

You will receive an activation email from which you can set up your own password to login with. You will also be asked to set up a 4-digit PIN which you can use on the Tapestry app to quickly log back in once you've initially logged in. Do remember to keep an eye out on your spam/junk folders for this email. If you have not received it by the end of the half term, please let your class teacher know.

To ensure the appropriate safety measures are in place for all the children, we trust that you understand that you should not take the photographs from Tapestry to use on any social media sites, particularly where other pupils appear in photographs.

### When will I receive observations?

At Bessemer we have an observation cycle which means once a half term your child will have a 10-minute observation carried out on them. During the rest of the time we will still be supporting your child's learning and development but we will not be formally recording this.

We look forward to sharing these observations with you and hope you enjoy using Tapestry.

### Phonics

At Bessemer, we follow our own specially designed Phonics scheme, however, to aid our teaching (especially in Nursery) we also use Jolly Phonics to help the children learn the sounds through song. We teach Phase 1 throughout Nursery covering many different aspects including your child's ability to hear and differentiate between different sounds. These can be sounds in the environment e.g. a plane passing overhead, or the sounds made by different animals. Ms Mucci has uploaded an informative PowerPoint to Google Classroom if you would like to learn more about Phase 1 phonics.

We also begin teaching Phase 2 phonics by introducing a 'Sound of the Week'. We work our way through the Jolly Phonics scheme with a focus on recognising the sound, saying the sound, hearing the sound at the beginning of words and eventually writing the sound. We teach the sounds through a variety of games and activities as well as the Jolly Phonics songs on youtube. If you would like to assist your child in their phonetic knowledge, you can follow the sound of the week from our newsletter and listen to that particular Jolly Phonics song at home.

We also love when children bring in an item from home for our Sound Table however, please ensure that this isn't something of great value or sentimental importance as they can sometimes get misplaced / broken by another child despite our best efforts!

### Reading Diaries

Each child in Nursery has been given a Reading Diary. These small red books are a way of you communicating with your child's teacher about how you feel your child is getting on with their reading at home. We recommend reading with your child each day. This can either be a book of your choice, or the book that your child chooses at school to bring home each week. On the inside front cover, we have stuck a sheet containing some ideas of questions that you might want to ask your child whilst reading. These include asking about the illustrations, the setting, the characters appearance, predicting what might happen next and answering questions about what has happened on each page. You can then write a short comment letting us know if your child was able to talk about their book. Please also remember to sign the book each time you read as the children get to stamp their book / get stickers for doing lots of reading at home which they really enjoy.

If your child has chosen a particularly long story, please remember that there is no need to read it in one go, it can be read over the whole week. Your child can then return their books each Friday.

They will then spend time with their teacher and discuss their book and what they liked about it. Your child will then choose their next book and will look at the front cover / blurb with their teacher before taking home.

# Things to remember...

## Parent Workshops

Parent Workshops are available on *Google Classroom*. These cover the topics of Phonics and Fine Motor Skills within the Early Years setting. Ms Mucci has aimed to give you a brief overview of Phase 1 Phonics as well as some ideas of activities to try at home with your child. Ms Rose has explored the importance of building fine motor skills to prepare your child for writing, showing some of the activities we do at school and suggestions of things that you could try at home with your child. Please go onto *Google Classroom* or the school webpage to have a look. Let us know if you have any questions or would like any additional support in these areas.



## Wellies and coats

While the weather is often wet and cold, please provide your children with a named, thick, winter coat and suitable footwear. We go to the Nature Garden three times a week and it is important that children are suitably dressed. Children have the opportunity to explore and experiment with water whilst at school. We try our best to keep your child dry by encouraging the use of aprons and rolling up of sleeves but if you know your child particularly enjoys water play, please could you provide them with a waterproof jacket / suit. If you do not have one, we are happy to provide one for you.

Please also encourage your child to practise putting on their wellies and coats independently.

## Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle with them each day. This should only contain water, no fruit juices or squash please!

## Spare Clothes

Please make sure that your child always has a spare change of clothes at school for toileting accidents and water play. If your child borrows clothes from school, please return the clothes washed and dried. If you have any socks that your child no longer needs, we would really appreciate any donations for our spare clothes box!

## Toileting

If your child please requires support with toileting, please continue to practise this at home and remind them of the importance of thorough hand washing.