

Dear Parents:

I hope your child has enjoyed engaging in and completing the various 'Number & Shape' related activities from their Home Learning Packs last week - we will continue supporting your child develop their early numeracy skills when we return to Pre-School.

Hopefully everyone accessed the 'Number Puppy Stories on our webpage as we will be introducing the follow on Numbers 6 - 10 stories.

I've been really impressed with how well all our children are engaging in the various activities - their 'Super Star Certificates' were well deserved.

This week our planned learning will focus on learning about the Solar System: - I have uploaded an introduction to this on our webpage along with a lovely song about the planets and a story about going to the moon.

Please engage with your child sourcing age appropriate information about the planets online or with books and pictures to build on their knowledge and understanding of the planets, sun and moon. There are lots of creative activities included in this weeks packs for your child to enjoy:

### **Learning about the Solar System:**

We have prepared a 'Rocket' making activity using junk art resources -

A cutting and sticking activity - creating a rocket picture with number sequencing -

\*\* (see photos of these activities completed on our webpage)

An astronaut colouring page with a poem to learn -

Drawing Activity - Please encourage your child to draw their own picture of 'Outer Space' in their Busy Books - eg an astronaut, a space rocket, some planets and stars - please remember to date this and record any chat from your child as they work at this activity.

Please send us some photos of your child drawing their 'Outer Space' pictures in their Busy Books:

**Chinese New Year:** Each year in Pre-School we celebrate the Chinese New Year - this year we have some suggestions and activities for you to engage in with your child - Please talk to them about China as a country using an Atlas or a World Globe or the internet to support or this - There are lots of suitable videos on YouTube to show your child about the Chinese New Year celebrations with music, dance and carnival parades.

Talk to them about the tradition of Chinese parents giving their child a 'Money Gift Envelope' (like the one we have included with chocolate coins inside)

We would have had a Chinese New Year banquet in Pre-School - perhaps you could make a Chinese meal or order a takeaway and show your child how to use the chopsticks we have included. The children always really enjoy the fun activities we have with Chinese music and dance - particularly the Chinese Dragon Dance - this can be downloaded from YouTube - join in with them as they move and dance to this music. There is a colouring sheet of a dragon and some card included to paint and cut out their own Dragon which they can use as a puppet as they dance. Again we would love some photos of how your child celebrated the Chinese New Year for our webpage.

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**Valentine's Day:** We have enclosed resources for your child to make a 'Valentine's Day Card' with some treats for them to enjoy ( and maybe share) This would be an excellent opportunity to engage in conversation your child about their feelings - children are struggling with lockdown and need to talk about the friends, family and activities they are missing out on - Use the photographs on our webpage to encourage children to remember their friends and what they did and the fun they had in Pre-School.

**Pancake Day:** A colouring matching picture to complete and colour is included with recipe for the pancakes we would have been making in Pre-School - perhaps you could make these with your child for a pancake day breakfast treat. We would love some pancake making photos for our webpage.

\*\* The week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> Feb is our mid-term holiday week and I'm sure you are all ready for a break from Home Schooling - Enjoy this well-deserved rest from it all. As the number of new cases of Covid-19 and the infection rates continue to fall we are really hopeful that Pre-School will open again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and we will keep you informed as soon as this is confirmed one way or the other.

\*\* Pre-School is due its annual inspection from Social Services this month and they will be randomly selecting parents to complete a questionnaire - please complete and return this if you receive one.

\*\* I have purchased some more left-handed scissors if anyone needs to borrow these for their child please let me know and I can put them in their pack this week.

\*\* Please provide lots of opportunities for your child to write and draw in their Busy Books - and we would be grateful if you would date this and write what they are saying about their work. If they are writing their name please ensure they use a capital letter for the first letter of their name and all other letters are in lower case.

Remember if your child is writing or drawing please encourage them to hold their pencil appropriately - habits formed now will be difficult to change as time goes on.

Take care everyone and hopefully see you all soon.

Best Wishes from Julie & Staff Team