

Cheselbourne Village School
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11 September 2020



Caterpillar Chatter

September 2020 Welcome Back!

Dear Parents and Caterpillar children,

Welcome back to our new year at Caterpillars. I hope you have all had a relaxing and sun filled summer holidays.

Welcome to our newest members in the Caterpillars. It is so lovely to have new friends to play and share with. Everyone has settled back into pre-school and is ready for some great learning.

This Term's Theme.

This term we are looking at Traditional Tales. It would be great if you could read stories such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red riding Hood and others whilst at home. We are also reading the Julia Donaldson books and encouraging the children to join in with the rhyming words at the end of each sentence which introduces rhymes and similar sounds.



Learning at Caterpillars

Our **Key Focus** for this term will be looking at the children's social skills and communication and supporting developing these along with their friends in pre-school and Reception.



We are also starting Funky Fingers again which is a group activity based on gross and fine motor skills that aid the development for children's large and small muscles in their hands, arms and shoulders as a precursor to getting hands ready for writing when they are older. It is a fun round robin activity where the children take turns at various activities such as the doh gym, spinning tops and threading a cauldron all set to music. This will take place every day.

We will always do some physical activity each day and sometimes as part of this, we also use it as an opportunity for children to practise changing their own clothes. This is an important part of their physical development and helps children become more independent and eventually ready for school. Therefore, could we please ask that all children have a change of clothes provided that might include a pair of shorts, t- shirt and trainers or plimsolls (similar to a PE kit) in your child's bag each day so that they can change for a PE session when we have one (this doesn't need to be uniform it can be any home clothes). We will always give plenty of support with this and as time goes on the children will gain confidence in doing this themselves.



Focused songs

We are singing lots of traditional nursery rhymes and lots of action songs to get the children moving.

Sharing and Enjoying Books

Unfortunately due to COVID 19 guidelines on borrowing books, we will not be able for pre-school children to take books home from the library at the moment but we would really encourage you to read to your child as much as possible as this is so beneficial to a child's developing language and literacy skills. Make a game of reading and act out a story either yourselves or with toys. Parents could be the big bad troll while your children go trip trapping over a bridge repeating " Who's that trip trapping over my bridge".



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Reminders:

- We are always available at the beginning and end of the day if you would like to talk to us about anything. Please phone school and make an appointment if you would like to speak to us about anything in depth or privately.
- We are hoping for some lovely Autumnal days and we spend as much time as possible outside. Could you please make sure your child has the right clothing provided for this. Wellies are great for in the garden but could you also provide another change of shoes should these become muddy.
- Please can you cut up any grapes, cherry tomatoes, olive etc. as these can be a choking hazard.
- Could you please ensure that all of your child's clothing and other items are named. We encourage the children to become as independent as possible so that by the time they go to school they can manage most things themselves. It would be great if they had a bag like a rucksack that is easier for them to carry.
- We will always help children with toileting and dressing but we also encourage them to try to do this for themselves. Could you encourage your child to try to pull up their own knickers, pants and trousers at home and make a game out of trying to put on shoes or socks. Dressing up clothes are great for encouraging them to learn this skill too.

Since the last information went out the arrangements for drop off has changed slightly. Drop off and pick up will be at the Village Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday and at school for Monday, Thursday and Friday. Thank you.

Many thanks for all the support that we have received from you all, we look forward to a happy fun-filled Autumn Term.

Yours sincerely,

Caterpillar Preschool Team

