



# Little Westy's News



16.10.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted with how well all the children have settled in at Little Westys and it is wonderful to see them all so happy. They have coped really well coming in, in the mornings and are getting really good at putting things in their lockers and taking their lunch boxes, drink and snack pots to the shelf. They are coping with the extra handwashing and we are so impressed that they wash their hands like we have modelled, remembering to do in between their fingers, their palms, the back of their hands, their fingertips (by rubbing these on the opposite palm), their thumbs and their wrists. What superstars!

The children have loved **Circle Time**, where we have spoken about belonging and the feelings 'happy' and 'sad'. We have discussed how we can share our smiles at nursery and what to do if a friend feels sad. We have two friends, who help us at Circle Time, called Jennie the jigsaw piece and Jerrie the cat. We also have a listening chime; when I make the sound we listen and relax until we cannot hear the sound any more...the children are amazing at this.

We have been learning all about **circles** and I have introduced the children to a character called 'Cyril the circle'. We have talked about how a circle goes around and around and it has a curved side and no corners. The children loved hunting for circles and making a shape rocket. This has enabled staff to observe the children's shape knowledge and plan future shape activities.

I have loved telling the children **traditional fairy tales**, using puppets and they are getting very good at joining in. Nursery staff are enjoying playing listening and understanding games with the children individually and it is has been a great opportunity to note which age and stage the children are at.

We are focussing on **Communication and Language** this term. This covers; Listening and Attention, Understanding, and Speaking. We all try to extend the children's oracy skills as much as we can, especially with speaking. For example, if they wave their yoghurt at us, we encourage them to use their words, 'please can you open it'. We use the phrase "I wonder..." a lot when playing with the children, as it is a brilliant open question and encourages them to talk, rather than asking closed question where they can simply answer 'yes' or 'no'. We are also modelling talk to help them as they play with their friends, especially when something goes wrong. For more ideas for talk and play at home visit: <https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>

We cannot believe the first term is already coming to an end. We hope you are all finding the **Tapestry** observations useful. Please remember you can comment on any of the observations and can also upload your own photos. During this last week of term, we are putting our tablets down, which is something we like to do once a term, to be **technology-free** for a week. You may still upload photos and observations and it would be wonderful to see what you are up to over half-term. If you are experiencing any problems with Tapestry, please come and speak with me.

**Clothing and Lunchtime:** as the weather becomes more autumnal, it would be brilliant for the children to have a pair of named wellies and a puddle-suit at nursery. The grass area and mud kitchen **cannot** be accessed by your child at this time of the year, unless they have wellies, as they just get too muddy. Please can you remember to name clothes that might be taken off during the session, e.g. hoodies and jumpers. If your child has a pack-up, please can you provide the cutlery they need, e.g. a spoon if you have packed a yoghurt. Also a little reminder they cannot have chocolate or sweets, just items found in the biscuit isle in a supermarket (not the confectionary section).

Thank you for you support this term and have a happy, healthy and safe half-term.

Kind regards,

Miss Tapscott and the Team