

Nursery Newsletter

28th September 2023

News

Dear Parents

It has been a fantastic 3 weeks of meeting many new parents and children and welcoming back our existing families to our school community.

Your little ones have made a great start to their time at Keswick House and it is wonderful to see new friendships forming as each week goes by. The children are really settling in beautifully and we are pleased to say that any tears you may witness at the school gates are very short-lived! The children are enjoying a variety of activities and are adjusting very well to their new routines. We are quickly getting to know your children and discovering their wonderful and unique personalities.

There are so many celebrations coming up and in a few weeks we will be celebrating Diwali. Please email Mrs Lisa if you would like to add any celebrations that you feel are important to your family as we would like to create and celebrate a rich and diverse calendar of events to share in class.

Website

You can find all the important information you need to know about our Nursery on our website. This includes information about what we are learning, key polices, important dates and special events.

Please see kewick@therocheschool.co.uk

Instagram

Please follow us on https://instagram.com/keswick_house_nursery?utm_medium=copy_link. The handle is @keswick_house_nursery

Free-Flow

The Lower and Upper Nursery children have been very busy exploring their new environments and activities. Our Montessori practical life shelf activities have been a huge hit in particular; the children have been working on their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. They have already explored so many different resources including a tooth brushing activity, pouring activities, learning to use torches, exploring puzzles and learning how to use a hole puncher to name just a few. The children have had many opportunities for outside learning too; the sand and water activities have also been very popular which have been set up in the garden and have sparked some great imaginative play. The children are beginning to build new friendships and we would like to encourage parents to organise play dates outside of school. We encourage playdates to be organised across all the classes. The Upper Nursery children adore playing with the younger ones and no doubt vice versa.

Lower Nursery News

As they step into this new environment, we strive to create a warm and nurturing atmosphere. We are so excited to be part of your child's learning journey and we encourage you to use Tapestry as a way of communicating with us and sharing observations.

The children have been settling in and learning the school routine and this week's project lesson helped us to practise the names of teachers and new friends.

In the garden, the children enjoy playing with all the equipment available, especially the car and the slide. Outdoor play provides the little ones with wonderful opportunities to learn in their own way, and to express what they are most interested in doing. The children are keen to take advantage of the dry weather, whilst it lasts.

During our 'singing' circle time we have enjoyed nursery rhymes and numerical songs with some of the children joining in with the words or actions with great gusto.

Last week we had a small discussion about the importance of recycling to help our planet. The children were not very aware of the concept and it would be helpful if you talk to your child about recycling at home, deepening their knowledge by sorting the recyclable materials from your daily rubbish; or taking old toys or clothes to a charity for them to be reused.

They have been very interested in the small world table where they took a trip around London, either on a red double decker bus, a black cab or the tube, visiting pretend famous landmarks. We had been reading several non-fiction and fiction books regarding the subject.

Keen to create pictures for their family and carers, the children have been busy crafting using different techniques of gluing and mark making.

Lower Nursery children were thrilled to be in the open air for their first forest school session. We set off in the school minibus ready for an adventure! Before they stepped into the forest the children were told about all of the safety instructions. We walked in the stream, ran through the forest, explored a den, climbed trees and some children popped bubbles whilst others played with sticks and twigs.

What a wonderful time we had!



Upper Nursery News

We have had such a fantastic start to the year. It has been lovely getting to know our new, grown-up Upper Nursery children. The children already show a clear love of all things to do with construction and have curiosity in cars and roads; we look forward to exploring this more over the year.

They have also been hugely interested in dinosaurs and have adored playing with them, sharing their knowledge and making up some super role-play scenarios with our dinosaur collection. It has been lovely to see how engaged this group are with the Montessori shelves; they are always so eager to explore and try these activities.

We have been doing a lot of initial work around number sequencing, numeral recognition to 10 (and even beyond for some!) and matching numerals and quantities to 5 or 10. We can see already that we have some real maths whizzes in the group! In phonics we have recapped sounds we have learned so far, we have reminded ourselves of 'a' and 'd'. We have also done some initial sound work together and we are so pleased to see how well the children have responded to this.

We have also been focusing on autumn over the past few weeks, especially given the very soggy autumnal weather that we had last week. The children have been fascinated by the changing colours of the leaves, while using natural resources to create faces and other transient art in the special, autumn spiced (chai) playdough that we made. We have also explored creating art with conker rolling and with leaves, making owl and hedgehog pictures.

Finally, we have spent a lot of time focusing on ourselves and looking at what makes us special and unique. We learned about features of our bodies such as how our eyes see, our noses smell and our eyelashes protect our eyes but that, despite this, nobody has the same eyes, nose or eyelashes! To support this, we have been engaging in a lot of sustained construction with Mr Potato Head as well as drawing our own initial self-portraits, aided by mirrors, and making funny faces on the computer. The children have come to the conclusion that differences are a good thing and that the world would be such a boring place if everyone was the same.

During Forest School they made up nature faces using objects and flora that they had collected on Wimbledon Common. The children all enjoyed National Fitness Day last week, taking part in exercises and talking about physical health.







Other News

We want to emphasise the importance of communication between parents and teachers and ask you to use Tapestry as a way of reaching out to your child's key teacher. You can also call or email the office keswick@therocheschool.com. Your child's observations, next steps and targets are also posted on Tapestry.

Could you please ensure your child's shoe bag is fully stocked with a spare set of clothes, wipes, extra nappies and nappy sacks if necessary. Could you please check all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name and school uniform is worn – no variations please. It is particularly challenging for teachers to change children when their shoe bag is empty and our spare school supply is depleted as a result.

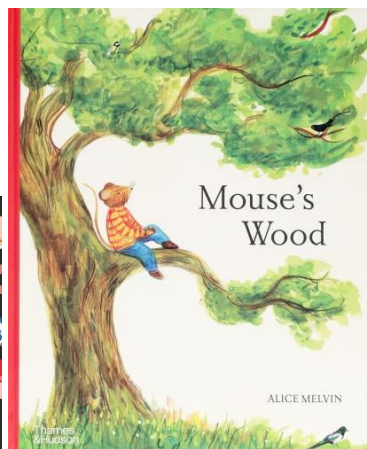
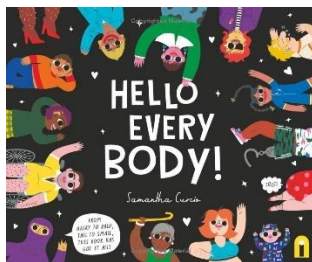
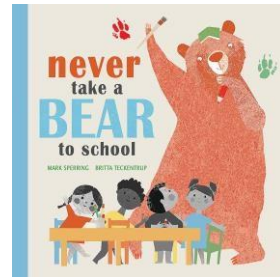
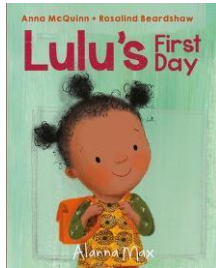
Could you please also ensure that your child is wearing the correct clothing on particular days and this is especially important for Forest School days; we do not have any spare sports kit at Nursery and if not properly dressed this may result in your child not being able to go to Wimbledon Common. Please note that we have asked parents to supply school sports kit on forest school days and no out of school clothes should be worn instead – thank you.

Please do not forget our Nursery Curriculum Talk and coffee morning is being held on Tuesday 17th October at 9.15 a.m. Please let Mrs Lisa know if you are able to attend.

Book suggestions this fortnight:

- Lulu's First Day by Anna McQuin

- Mouse's Wood- a year in nature by Alice Melvin
- Hello Every Body by Samantha Curcio
- Never Take a Bear To School by Mark Sperring
- Think Big Little One by Vashti Harrison



Have a lovely weekend!

Nursery Team