**NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024**

Dear parents/carers,

We are currently using the core story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle to develop some play themes around growth, life cycles, insects, and mini bugs. The wonderful thing about stories though is that the children can take them in many different directions! They are a great springboard for the imagination, and seeing what fantastic ideas the children develop themselves! We’ve also been singing songs and rhymes about seeds, growing and gardens.

We have also been playing with and growing seeds.

**WILD GARDEN**

Our wild garden is starting to burst with new growth! Would you be interested in joining our garden whatsapp group? You are very welcome to join if you would be able to spare a bit of time to help care for the garden. This involves some simple maintenance, such as weeding, hoeing, cutting growth back, but, essentially, no gardening experience is required!! Please see Liz if you would be able to help in this way. Just half an hour in the garden can achieve quite a lot!

Our pond is really beginning to come alive, with tadpoles, and some new aquatic plants taking shape. This has been a delight for the children, who have visited the pond, in small groups, to learn about pondlife and to take delight in what they find.

**NEW FEES AND ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

You will have seen that, from this month we have needed to increase our fees to feepayers, and bring in additional charges to funded parents. Please do get in touch with me if you have any questions about these.

**FUNDRAISING**

We were so grateful for all those parents who supported our cake sale last week, to raise money for the garden. Maggie did an amazing job at organsing and running this sale, so a very big thankyou to you Maggie! And what a success it was! A huge sum of £171 was raised!! Considering this, we have decided to use the funds to get a new,large wooden sandpit. The children love to use a large space to dig altogether, and this would be perfect for that.

**NAMING ITEMS**

Please remember to clearly label all items that your child brings with them. This especially applies to welly boots, which can be easily done with a black marker pen on the inside of each boot.

**PARENT HELPERS**

We always value parent helpers at any time. One of the most useful jobs to be done is preparing the children’s snack, so if you are free for 20 minutes at drop off time, this would be really appreciated.

**SPRING WALK FOR EVERYONE**

On the last day of this term, Friday 24th May, we will be having a Spring Walk/treasure hunt in Vassalls Park. This is an annual event for ALL parents/carers and children, including siblings. It is always a great day for everyone. Please note that your child will need to be accompanied by an adult for this event.

We will meet at 9.45 in the carpark by Vassalls park. We will finish by approximately 12. Sticky Fish will then be closed for the half term break.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Inset day - MONDAY JULY 1ST (Sticky fish closed)**

**Term 5 - Mon April 15th – Fri May 24th**

**Term 6 - Mon June 3rd - Tues July 23rd**

**Best wishes**

**Liz and the team**