



## Message From The EYFS Team

Staff and pupils in Auckland's Early Years department, have completed another busy term, at home or in school. Writing on behalf of all the staff in the department, we were delighted to see all the children return to school this term and pick up the routines, learning and social interactions that school life brings. We are confident that our children will quickly pick up any lost learning in the final summer term and we encourage you to continue sending wonderful learning opportunities that the children encounter at home through EYLog parent observations. This will support our teachers to assess your child's learning at home.

### Staff Introduction



Hello! My name is Miss Lloyd and I am a Pre-Prep teacher. I joined Auckland College in March 2018. I am a qualified teacher and specialised in Early Years during my PGCE. I have also completed a degree in Early Childhood and Education studies and I am the lead coordinator for 'Developing confident talkers', in Auckland's EYFS department. I am passionate about encouraging our staff to deliver high quality interactions with children that support the developing brain and help them make sense of language and develop their vocabulary. We achieve this by focusing on all aspects of language development, creating activities that boost all areas, including close listening and phonemic awareness. We encourage children to pick out sounds from the environment, for instance by going outdoors and listening to bird song or by listening to different environmental sounds and identifying what they are. I have outlined below some useful strategies you can adopt at home in helping your child to become a life long confident talker.

### Important Dates

- 13<sup>th</sup> April-Term Starts
- 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May- Mental Health Awareness Week
- 21<sup>st</sup> May- World Day for Cultural diversity
- 28<sup>th</sup> May- End of Term

## Early Language Development: Parent Tips

Parents are crucial in the development of talk because you can model its use in different contexts, you can demonstrate how communication works, you can help your child learn the names of things, and you can show them how they might develop their thinking through talking about it.

To make the most of your role, pay attention to the following points:

1. Consider how you use your face when your child is talking with you – use wide open eyes to encourage engagement.
2. Non-verbal signals, gestures and facial expressions are all crucial in building talk.
3. Use plenty of repetition to embed new words – revisit and reinforce new language.
4. Avoid using 'baby talk' and oversimplifying your talk with your child. Although it is best not to use overly complex vocabulary, speak mainly in full sentences and Standard English.
5. Make full use of open-ended questions – they are useful for encouraging talk because they leave a space for your child to develop a conversation with you.
6. Utilise sustained shared thinking to support language learning when you are playing with your children.
7. Visit challenging and interesting environments to engage your children and create lots of opportunities for meaningful talk.
8. Where a child makes a mistake with a word, or its pronunciation, rather than pointing out the error, simply repeat back the word said correctly.

# What have your children been up to?

## PRE-PREP 1

Pre Prep 1 have had a great time this half term and have learned lots of new things! Our topics covered have been Space and the Jungle. We loved learning all about Space; we learned about the names of the planets, astronauts, rockets, stars and constellations!

We did lots of Space counting and looked at familiar 2D shapes when creating rockets and planets for our Space role play corner. Many colours were used when we created our own planets; we watched them all change as we mixed them!

We thought about what we would take to Space with us if we were Astronauts; food was a very popular answer! We then traced and wrote over our list - developing our pencil control and fine-motor skills. Constellations caught our interest and we loved creating our own using chalk and some star stickers; we joined up the stars using lines of chalk!



Pre Prep 1 have really enjoyed our Jungle topic! We have done lots of jungle phonics - talking about the sounds our jungle animals begin with and lots of jungle maths - size ordering, positional language, and patterns!



We have had so much fun finding more information and facts out about our favourite animals, we had so much fun listening to the sounds some of the jungle animals make, they made us laugh a lot! We recreated the sounds of the jungle animals using our voices and talking post cards to record our voices.

Well done for a brilliant half term!

Miss Lloyd

## PRE-PREP 2

I am so proud of the progress Pre-Prep 2 has continued to make during the past few weeks. We began the term by looking at the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. This topic has enabled us to do some really fun activities, including: growing our own beanstalks; using role play masks to act out the story and create castle measuring posts for our beanstalk pots.



In Phonics, the children have been developing their knowledge of initial sounds and digraphs, such as 'f' and 'ff'. This includes practising some early reading skills by sounding out simple words and blending them back together to read what the word says. In addition to this, the children have been comparing different measurements such as size and height. This includes using non-standard forms of measurement to see how tall their beanstalks had grown.

During our weekly PE lessons, the children have been practising keeping control over an object, such as when kicking a ball or aiming for a target. We have also begun to look at different ways of jumping and have been taking some risks when jumping over objects of different heights.

This term we have had several special events to celebrate as a class. All of the children loved participating in our World Book Day activities, such as taste testing, eating porridge and doing Hungry Caterpillar yoga.

Finally, as part of Enhanced Curriculum we have been learning some BSL (British Sign Language), by learning how to sign the alphabet and other familiar songs and nursery rhymes. The children are all getting so good at this newfound skill! Miss Patterson

## PRE-PREP 3

Pre Prep 3 has had an excellent half term, and they have worked extremely hard both in school and at home. The class enjoyed learning all about growth and spring, as we learnt about signs of spring in our environment, spring bulbs growing, baby animals being born and weather changes. We have also enjoyed a selection of different spring stories; listening and taking part in the stories by describing different endings or repeating repetitive phrases in them. We even had some chicks visit our classroom!



In Phonics, the children have moved on to Phase 3 sounds, playing different Phonic games and identifying words with the sounds in. In Numeracy the children have increased their counting to 30 and are identifying and writing numerals of numbers to 20 and some beyond.

Children in Pre-Prep 3 loved taking part in World Book Day. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic they were when discussing some of their favourite stories and characters. There was a lot of excitement in our classroom on the last day of term, as we came to school in fancy dress.



I hope you all have a lovely break over the spring half term, and I look forward to seeing the children return and ready to complete the last term of Pre-Prep 3! Mrs Collins

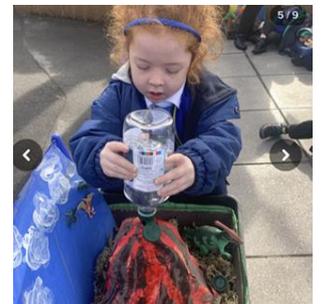
## RECEPTION

During this term, the children have thoroughly enjoyed our topic on dinosaurs. They were extremely excited about the arrival of a large egg. We had lots of discussions and wonderful ideas about what we thought may be inside, how we can keep the egg safe and how to help it hatch.

Using the children's interests and excitement around the theme of dinosaurs, the children created a warning poster for the egg and wrote some captions on how to keep the egg safe. We have become dinosaur experts and can name and describe lots of different dinosaurs. The children demonstrated wonderful imagination and applied their writing skills to produce some outstanding work.



The children have acquired new sounds of phase 3 during phonics and are becoming confident 'blenders' as they segment and blend digraph sounds. During numeracy, children have been enjoying practical activities to double and halve numbers. We have also begun to look at money and started to recognise coins and adding different amounts together.



Throughout this term the children have once again demonstrated their understanding of keeping each other safe and well. They have remained positive with a huge smile on their face whilst enjoying learning new things! Well done Reception!

Miss Scholfield & Miss Bainbridge

