

NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to our end of half term / November newsletter.

It's hard to believe that we have come to the end of the first half term of the year. We want to thank you all for your diligence in adhering to our Covid expectations and helping us stay open to all. That little bit of extra caution really makes a huge difference to all our families, although we do realise how frustrating it may be to get your children tested. We aren't medical professionals so we don't want to make comments on things we are not experts on. Let's all keep up the good work.

When we return from the half term break we have two exciting **Parent Forum** sessions on offer for you. The first is a session run by our Early Education Practitioner, Koli, who will be offering you an informative session on helping build **Early Reading** skills. The session will run on **Thursday**

11th November at either **10am or 2pm**. Don't miss out on getting some really valuable

advice. The second **Parent Forum** will be on **Outdoor Learning** and will be led by our Outdoor Education lead and Cooke Room leader, Marcello. This session will be an on-site session and booking is essential as there are very limited spaces. This Parent Forum will run on

Wednesday 17th November at either **10am or 2pm**. This is the first time we are trialing having parents in the provision again so we will ask that you please wear a face mask for the duration of the visit. We will also ask you some covid screening questions as well just to make sure we are protecting our children and staff.

As I spend time in the classrooms I can see the real benefit of our **protected times** and the impact the uninterrupted, small group sessions have on your children and their development. Please make sure you bring in your child outside of these times as we really don't want you to have to wait! The idea is that during this time the children will not, at all, get interrupted by anyone and that short time gives children the best chance to learn new skills or build their knowledge. Here is the link to the times if you needed to access them again: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=454&type=pdf> and thank you for your support and understanding.

We want you to have a good understanding of some of the things that your child is doing at nursery and to give you some ideas on what you can do at home to help continue on in the theme of what we are doing in nursery. I have given you the link to the section of the website where we have provided a whole range of things that might help you at home. Scroll right down to the bottom to find our **"Nursery at Home"** documents which have a whole host of activities and suggestions that relate to things that the children have been doing at nursery. Here is the link: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/page/?title=Nursery+at+Home+%2D+Keeping+up+our+Development&pid=65&action=saved>

You will be receiving the **Initial Assessment** of your child via email which will give you a sense of where we think your child is at developmentally at this moment in time and what things we think we would like to focus on for the rest of the Autumn term. We use an app called **"Evidence Me"** in order to produce these reports and you will have received some correspondence from us about signing up in order to offer some of your own observations of your child's development at home. Here is a link to help you sign up if you are having difficulties: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=347&type=pdf>

We often get asked about what books we would recommend to you and earlier this year we collectively brought all our ideas together and came up with a **Rebecca Cheetham Recommends** book list for you to refer to. There are some wonderful books in there that we are sure your children will love or already love! Here is the link: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=319&type=pdf> We also have an **Amazon Book Wish List** which you are more than welcome to contribute to in order to help us secure wonderful books for the classrooms. If you would like to donate a book/s, here is the link to the wishlist: <https://amzn.eu/9GqoZ87>

Nursery Opening Times

Extended day
8:00am to 5:00pm
Or
8:00am to 6:00pm

30 Hours
8:45am—2:45pm

Morning place
8:45am to 11:45pm

Afternoon place
12:45pm to 3:45pm

Charges apply for late
collections.

Be Bright Be Seen!

National Road Safety Week 15th to 21st November 2021

Keeping us all safe is very important to everyone at Rebecca Cheetham and at this time of year, with the dark mornings and evenings drawing in, it is important to be clearly seen when out and about. Fill in our travel survey to receive a snazzy 'glow in the dark' snap band, which can be worn over your coat sleeve to ensure that you are visible to all road users.

Click on this link to access the online form. <https://forms.gle/WzYifAi4mYa5cYy7>



We encourage active travel to school but if you do have to drive, please remember to park your



vehicles in designated bays along Marcus Street and not on the 'keep clear' signage or the yellow lines coming into the nursery. Turning your engines off while you wait will also help us to reduce air pollution around our school.

Wear your Wellies Wednesday

Walking is a great way of keeping active and gives you and your child the chance to see and talk about what's going on in the local neighbourhood.

By walking to nursery you are helping to reduce the numbers of vehicles on the roads, improving air quality of the environment and maintaining social distancing. Wellies are great footwear for playing in the garden during the winter months. So why not put on a pair of your finest Wellies and walk to school on **Wednesday 1st of December 2021**.

Speaking about Wellies, we want to remind you about appropriate clothing and shoes for children who love to play in the rain! **Wellington boots** are a great resource for your child so their shoes, socks and feet don't get wet. After all, which child can resist jumping in a puddle! Children love playing with water and water play is part of every early years provision, including playing in the rain! If you are particularly worried about your child getting wet, consider all-in-one **waterproofs** for your child; they give your child a lot of freedom in terms of how they play and are super easy to keep clean! Here are some examples that won't break the budget:

<https://www.regatta.com/kids-puddle-iv-waterproof-puddle-suit-navy/>

<https://www.sportsdirect.com/gelert-waterproof-suit-infants-448398#colcode=44839818>

<https://direct.asda.com/george/kids/coats-jackets/disney-mickey-mouse-and-friends-cobalt-puddlesuit/GEM840158,default,pd.html?cgid=D25M1G1C4>

Often places like Aldi and Lidl and some other big name supermarkets have these on sale as well; it's worth keeping a look out as you can get them at a really good price. They are also great to use during forest walks in the winter months so you can let your child go on adventures without worrying too much about their clothes!

It's also handy to know what waterproof actually means, as many items of clothing suggest they are waterproof but when put to the test, you can find your child still gets soaked. Clothing should have a waterproof rating: a good waterproof rating: 5,000mm is rain-proof, whereas 10,000 to 15,000 is properly waterproof.

We have sent out a Google Form to you all to find out if you could help support our **Forest School** starting up again which we can only do with parental support. If you haven't yet completed the form, can you please make sure you have done it ASAP so we can make the appropriate plans so we can recommence the sessions after the half term break. Marcello, our Cooke Room leader is our Outdoor education lead and he is very much looking forward to getting the children out again at Forest School at West Ham Park. Here is a link to our Forest School Information leaflet: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=477&type=pdf>

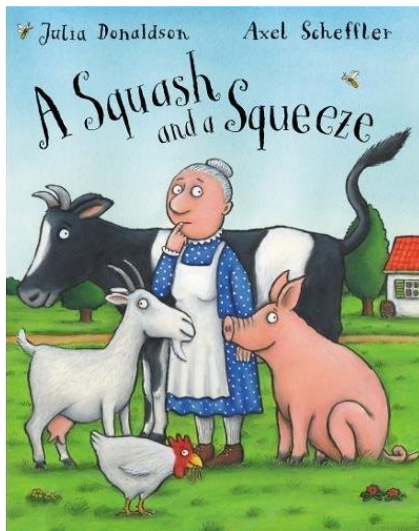
So, this brings this newsletter to a close. We want to wish you a wonderful half term break and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 1st November 2021. Stay safe and have a wonderful time with your children.

Best wishes,

Rohan (Headteacher)

Who is Donaldson?

Julia Donaldson CBE, is an English writer, playwright and performer, and the 2011–2013 Children's Laureate. She is best known for her popular rhyming stories for children, especially those illustrated by Axel Scheffler, which include *The Gruffalo*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man*. She originally wrote songs for children's television but has concentrated on writing books since the words of one of her songs, "A Squash and a Squeeze", were made into a children's book in 1993. She remains one of England's most prominent and popular children's authors.



Here are some of the many titles written by Julia Donaldson:

A Squash and a Squeeze

Tiddler

The Snail and the Whale

Detective Dog

The Highway Rat

What The Ladybird Heard

Tyrannosaurus Drip

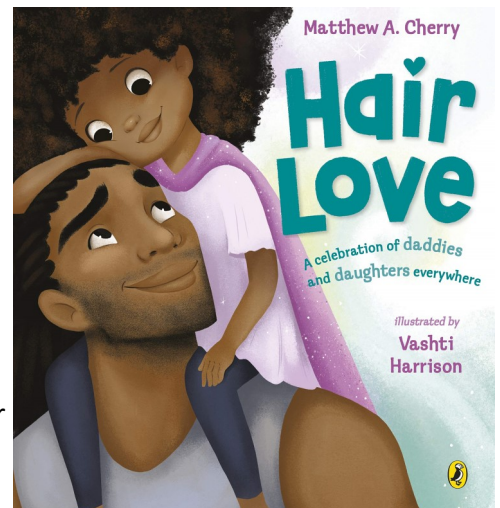
Zog

Hair Love

We use books to open up a world of learning for our children. The core books we use relate to children's interests and we feed that through the breadth of activities we offer within the provision. We also think that using books as the base for our learning helps children love reading on a deeper level which we hope they will keep with them throughout their education. We will be using books to enhance key messages we want to impart through our whole nursery and children's centre.

This month our key book is ***Hair Love***, written by Matthew A Cherry and illustrated by Vashti Harrison. What a beautiful book that celebrates a loving father/daughter relationship and how they overcome the obstacle of doing his daughter's hair. We love that the book does not assume gender stereotypes and that "dad" plays just as pivotal a role in family life as mum. This story is also important in celebrating difference in hair. Quite shockingly, in the USA, a recent Bill was passed making it illegal to discriminate against natural black hairstyles. It feels quite unbelievable that in some parts of the world in 2020, it has

been necessary to pass law to eradicate hair discrimination. Our hope is that, by incorporating beautiful books such as this one in our school, all our children will see the beauty in someone's natural hair gifts and celebrate differences rather than discriminate; and maybe even ask the adult males in their lives to do their hair for them!



Here is a link to the Book of the Month info sheet: <https://www.rebeccacheetham.newham.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=478&type=pdf>

This book was based on a short film which won an Oscar Award for Best Animated Short Film. You can find the link to the film here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNw8V_Fkw28