



Grafton Childcare

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Royal Celebrations - Tuesday 8th May - Friday 1st June 2018

Facebook Update

Following some interesting feedback we recently received from a parent who felt they didn't know what their child did each week at Grafton Childcare, we have revamped what information we share on our **Public Facebook Page** on a weekly basis to hopefully give all parents more of a flavour of the high jinks, childish buffoonery and mischievous shenanigans that we all enjoy, as well as the educational outcomes planned.

But please remember to continue to read your child's Daily Diary or Communication Booklet and our detailed Monthly Newsletters and Weekly Blogs which will go into much more detail about activities & adventures enjoyed and carried out here at Grafton Childcare. Remember if at **ANY** point should you wish to discuss your child's progress, simply ask and we can arrange a suitable time for you to pop in for a chat with your child's Key Worker.



The Curiosity Approach

Providing, Curiosity, Awe and Wonder in Early Childhood:

Here at Grafton Childcare, we continue to strive to offer excellent standards of care and education. By joining The Curiosity Approach™ Accreditation scheme we look to continue reflecting on our practice and the opportunities we offer our children.

We have published a special Curiosity Approach™ additional newsletter to explain what it is all about. Our main goal is to ensure that our children reach their full potential, in a stimulating caring and safe environment. Giving your child the opportunity to follow their own learning style through curiosity, awe, wonder and fun. Thank you for taking the time to read both newsletters this month and we very much hope you will be able to support us in our Curiosity Approach™ journey.

Our topic for May is going to be based on 'Royal Celebrations'. As always please remember to check out our blog for in depth details of our plans, which we will upload each weekend for the week ahead. www.wordpress.graftonchildcare.com



8th - 11th May 2018

Thank You

We would like to thank all of those parents who kindly sent back their child's 'Baking Boxes' so that they could be used a second time, many of them were reused last week when the children took home their Thomas the Tank Engine Cookies.

We would also like to thank Maggie who very kindly donated a Puzzle and Rebecca who donated some a lovely set of metal scales, your donations are always very welcome, thank you.

Reading

So not surprisingly as our developmental focus this week is on Literacy we will be enjoying lots of opportunities to read some of our Royal Celebrations inspired stories including 'Hooray It's a New Royal Baby!'; 'The Queen's Hat'; 'The Royal Baby's Big Red Bus Tour' and 'Charlie and Lola's', 'We Completely Must Go To London'.

We will be exploring these using our Wooden Castle and Small Role-play items to bring the to Royal Celebrations stories to life.

Writing

Which is the second aspect of the Literacy developmental area includes lots of opportunities for the children to take part in mark making with our large chunky stencils and water painting both outside.

We will be noticing and encouraging the marks children make and the meanings that they give to them, such as when a child uses our rollers, brushes and chalk to mark make. As well as talking to the children about the letters that represent the sounds they hear at the beginning of their own names and other familiar words and demonstrating writing so that children can see spelling in action.



Literacy Development

Reading & Writing:

Literacy Development here at Grafton involves encouraging our children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. We use a combination of the DofE's Phases 1 and 2 'Letters and Sounds' as well as the 'Jolly Phonics' systems. Both of which are used by most of the Primary schools into which our children feed. Our children are provided with access to a very wide range of reading materials such as books and poems, to ignite their interest, including our 200 Going Home Book Bags.

Letters and Sounds: Phase 1 falls largely within the Communication and Language and Literacy areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). In particular, it supports linking sounds and letters in the order in which they occur in words, and naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet. It also draws on and promotes other areas of learning described in the (EYFS), particularly Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Creative Development, where, for example, music plays a key part in developing children's language.

We carry out lots of short focused activities with our 2, 3 and 4 year olds which are mainly adult-led with the intention of teaching the important basic elements of the Letters and Sounds programme such as oral segmenting and blending of familiar words. However, we will also draw upon many of the child led activities that are provided here at Grafton. With the aim to embed the Phase 1 adult-led activities in a language-rich provision that serves the best interests of the children by fully recognising their propensity for play based learning and its importance in their development. It follows that Grafton's high quality play activities offer lots of opportunities to enrich the children's language across the (EYFS) and that staff need to be alert to the opportunities afforded for language development through the children's play based learning.

14th May - 18th May 2018

Royal Garden Party

Remember on Friday afternoon we shall be holding our Royal Garden Party between 1.30 pm - 3.30 pm, if your child attends on a Friday if would be lovely if they could wear a party dress or smart shorts/ trousers and a shirt for the occasion.



Shape, Space & Measure

This week we shall be demonstrating and encouraging the children to use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems sneakily linked to our Royal Celebrations Topic. We will be encouraging the children to recognise, create and describe patterns as they play with our sets of Wooden Knights and our Happlyland Royal Families and London Colections. Gary will be providing the children with opportunities to explore the characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them during our outdoors activities with our giant wooden blocks in the playground and our Water Cascade in the front gardens.

This week he has planned some fun where the children will be counting how much liquid it will take to fill certain jugs, teapots and various containers in preparation for Friday's Royal Garden Party. Please keep your eyes peeled to our weekly blogs where we will be sharing our photos of the children really getting stuck into all of these activities!

Mathematics Development

Numbers; Shape, Space and Measure:

Mathematics Development here at Grafton involves giving the children numerous opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures.

Numbers: To support the development of this aspect of mathematics we will provide opportunities and activities both adult and child led where the children can develop their counting skills with numbers from 1 to 30 and higher for the more able.

So this week we will be using some of our Orchard Toys games and puzzles, such as King of the Castle, Magical Castle and Fairy Cottage to link in with our Royal Celebrations Topic. The children will also be using our Number Tiles to explore number. We will be supporting the children to place them in preset orders and expressing which number is one more or one less than a given number. By using quantities and objects, they will begin to develop the skills to add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answers they are looking for.

To further support activities like this, we shall be introducing our Threading Beads and Shapes as well as our Stacking Cups and Pots to help develop early numeracy skills such as counting, sorting, patterning as well as problem solving skills, including doubling, halving and quartering, whilst they attempt to tread the beads and shapes onto their shoelaces and sequence their buckets and cups into rows.

Royal Garden Party

On Wednesday and Thursday some of the children will be baking some glorious Crown Biscuits, Regal Cup Cakes and Scrumptious Scones to enjoy during Friday afternoon's Royal Garden Party Celebrations. This baking bonanza will of course involve lots of weighing and measuring of the ingredients. As part of our introduction to The Curiosity Approach™, the children will be using real bone china Teacups and Plates.



21st May - 25th May 2018

**The Key Ingredients to...
The Curiosity Approach™**

"So, what is The Curiosity Approach? It is about more than just beautiful play spaces - it's an inspirational modern-day approach to early childhood which takes inspiration from Reggio, Steiner, Te Whariki and a sprinkle of Montessori, underpinned by the EYFA.

It's a beautiful recipe of wonderful ingredients, carefully mixed together with experiences, passion and a love of early childhood.

It's baked together in a mindful oven of loveliness that needs thoughtful practitioners and professionals to be mentally present, thankful and forever curious about their careers with your children. This is a modern-day approach that fits perfectly in current changing technological times - bringing curiosity, awe and wonder into early childhood and creating the 'thinkers and doers' of the future." ***please see below!**

Technology

Our children will be learning to recognise that a range of technology is used in their homes as well as at nursery. They will be supported to select and use technology for particular purposes here at Grafton. For example this week they will be using our various technology toys to support our current Royal Celebrations topic.

We will be adding our Cameras to our Kids Shed which has been converted into a replica of St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, complete with a small pulpit, flowers and an assortment of Wedding outfits for them to dress up in.

* With thanks to, 'The Curiosity Approach™' for allowing us to reprint this piece which was originally published in the, 'Curious Magazine' Special Edition. See The Curiosity Approach™ page on our website for lots more information.

Understanding the World Development

People & Communities; The World; Technology:

Understanding the World here at Grafton involves guiding the children to make sense of their physical world and their community through providing opportunities for them to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment

People & Communities: We will be supporting the children to talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members. Encouraging them to develop their empathy to understand that other children don't always enjoy the same things and that they need to be sensitive to this. For example, 'The New Royal Baby' & 'Hooray It's a New Royal Baby' are both great stories and just perfect for all families with a new arrival on the way and perfect to share with all older siblings.

We will be supporting their knowledge about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions by using our monthly topics as well as the information which the children and parents share with us via their, "My Favourite Things" pages to do so. Have you completed your child's page for April or May yet? It is not to late if you have forgotten and your child's Key Worker will find the information really useful.

The world: the children will be learning about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. We will be talking about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another, we can link this to our current topics and the children's interests to help to embed their understanding. For example by using our books, 'Katie in London'; 'The Royal Baby's Big Red Bus'; and 'We Completely Must Go To London' we can directly link to last weekends Royal Wedding. We will be constantly encouraging the children to observe their surroundings, animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes using their interests and fascinations to develop and broaden their knowledge base.



29th May - 1st June 2018

Phonics Pots

Royal Celebrations

8th May - 'U' for Uniform
inspired by all the Uniforms worn at the
Royal Wedding

14th May - 'V' for Vases of
Flowers inspired by The Vases of Flowers
in the Church

21st May - 'X' for Box
inspired by The Box the Wedding Rings will
be stored in!

29th May - 'Z' for Zoom Lens
inspired by Zoom Lens on all of the Cameras
at the Royal Wedding

Please remember that all items must fit inside your child's Phonics Pot with the lid on, so we do not lose any of your items at Nursery thank you.

Sun Cream

Fingers crossed we seem to be moving into a period of warmer sunny weather. Can we please remind all parents that you are responsible for applying sun cream to your child **before** you drop them off for their first session. If your child attends for longer than 5 hours then we will apply a second application of Sun Cream after 1.00 pm if we feel a second application may be required. We will only use the cream supplied by yourself unless you have indicated that you are happy for Grafton Childcare to use our own Nivea 50 factor sun cream.

Web: www.graftonchildcare.co.uk

Expressive Arts & Design Development



Exploring and Using Media and Materials; Being Imaginative:

Expressive arts and design here at Grafton involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing lots of opportunities and encouragement for them to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Exploring and using media and materials: our children sing lots of songs, enjoy creating music and dance, and experimenting with numerous ways of changing them. We focus on teaching the children to safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function, through for example our regular Finger Gym, Messy Play and Danger Dads sessions.

Being imaginative: We support and encourage the children to use what they have learnt about media and materials in original ways, thinking about their uses and purposes. We enjoy supporting the children to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and of course through stories.

We believe that opportunities for role-play are so important for all children which is why at Grafton we have created two dedicated role-play areas. Our smaller inside 'Home Corner' under the stairs and of course our large 'Kid's Shed' in the top of the playground which we can transform so that it links in specifically to each topic. We have just transformed our 'Kid's Shed', into our 'St George's Chapel', with all of the necessary props you would expect to find, e.g. a Pulpit, Flowers, Pews, Cameras, Confetti, Song Books etc..



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Grafton Childcare's Short Term Topics & Themes Summer Term (2)

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends				
9	10 	11	12	13 
16	17	18 	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	1 May	2	3 	4
Royal Celebrations				
7 Bank Holiday	8 	9	10	11
14	15	16	17 	18 Garden Party
21	22	23	24	25 
Mon. 28th May - Fri. 1st June is Half-term for our handful of Term-time only Funded Children				
28 Bank Holiday	29	30	31	1 June
The Tiger Who Came to Tea				
4	5	6	7	8
11	12 	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28 	29
Pirate and Mermaids				
2 July	3	4	5 	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24 	25	26	27
Circus Shenanigans				
30	31	1 August	2	3
6	7	8	9 	10
13 	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24 
Mon. 27th August - Fri. 31st August Grafton Childcare will be closed for our Summer Holiday and will reopen on Monday 3rd September 2018 for the beginning of our Autumn Term.				