

## Spring Term in Pre School

Dear Parents and Carers,

This spring term, we are excited to continue supporting the children in their learning and development. For those children who have been with us for a while, we have seen some wonderful friendships blossom. Many have grown in confidence as they enthusiastically participated in new activities and took part in a singing performance during Stay and Play and our Christmas Carols event. This term, we will build on these experiences and introduce new opportunities for exploration and growth, inspired by our carefully chosen spring-themed books.

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### Key Texts for Spring Term:

- *Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring* by Kenard Pak: This beautifully illustrated book will guide us through the transition from winter to spring, helping children to notice and appreciate the changes in the natural world around them. Through this story, we will explore seasonal weather patterns, budding plants, and the return of animals to the environment, fostering a sense of wonder and curiosity.
  - *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle: This engaging story follows the journey of a seed through its lifecycle, teaching children about growth, survival, and the seasons in an accessible and relatable way. Activities inspired by this book will include planting seeds, observing how they grow, and creating artwork that depicts the journey of a seed.
  - *Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms* by Julia Rawlinson: This delightful tale captures the excitement and curiosity of springtime as Fletcher and his woodland friends experience the beauty of blossoming trees and vibrant landscapes. The story will inspire discussions about the changes we observe in spring and provide opportunities for role-play and imaginative storytelling.
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### Phonics Development:

Our phonics sessions continue to be a key focus this term. The children have now learned sounds up to 'o' and are beginning to blend these sounds together to form simple words, marking the early stages of reading. We will introduce children to CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words, such as *cat*, *dog*, and *mat*, encouraging them to blend and segment sounds independently. Activities will include interactive games, sensory resources, and group reading to build confidence and enjoyment in phonics. They will also continue developing strength in their fingers with the use of fine motor activities and using the 'nip, flip, and grip' technique to hold their pencil in a pincer grip.

Please continue to practise the phonics and reading books that are sent home to support your child with these skills.

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### **Mathematical Development:**

This term, we will continue to explore numbers up to 10, focusing on counting, recognising numerals, and understanding quantity. The children will engage in maths counting songs to support their learning, making the concepts enjoyable and memorable. They will also begin to explore simple addition and subtraction using practical, hands-on resources such as counters and natural materials. Spring-themed activities, such as planting seeds and counting petals, will provide opportunities to apply maths skills in meaningful contexts.

Please support your child's learning by incorporating counting into everyday activities, exploring numbers in the environment, and engaging in counting games together.

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### **Supporting Independence:**

At nursery, we encourage children to develop their independence through daily routines and activities. We support them in learning essential self-care skills, such as putting on their coats, zipping them up, and sorting their clothes when they are inside out. Children are also encouraged to put on their shoes, open and close their bags, and manage their belongings with increasing confidence. Additionally, they are guided in toileting, washing their hands thoroughly, and blowing their noses. These tasks not only foster independence but also build their problem-solving skills and promote good hygiene practices.

Please support your children in doing the same at home by turning these tasks into fun, achievable challenges. Encouraging them with praise for each step will help build their confidence and prepare them for future transitions while boosting their self-esteem.

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### **Communication:**

We value open communication with parents and welcome conversations about your child's milestones and any concerns during drop-off and pick-up times. For more in-depth discussions with the manager or your child's key worker, we are happy to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

We also love to hear about what the children are doing outside of nursery! If you'd like to share those special moments, you can upload observations to the Famly app. These updates encourage children to talk about their experiences with staff and their peers, helping to build their confidence and social skills.

Please note that not all staff work five days a week. If your message is urgent, ensure you send it to all team members via the Famly app or call Pre School directly by pressing **3** when contacting The Mount School.

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This spring term promises to be a season of growth, discovery, and joy. We are excited to support your children as they continue to thrive, learn, and flourish here at The Mount Nursery. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's early education journey.