

# **Bumblebees Newsletter – Happy Half Term!**

Hello lovely Bumblebees families,

We've reached the half-term break—hooray! It's been a wonderfully busy and joy-filled week in our room, and we're excited to share everything your little ones have been exploring, creating, and discovering.

## **What We've Been Up To This Week**

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, the children have been busy spreading love in true Bumblebees style. This week we enjoyed:

### **Valentine's Creations**

- Making special cards for the people they love
- Exploring *pink gloop*—squishy, messy, and full of giggles
- Sensory play with *chia-seed slime*, which was a huge hit

### **Pancake Day Fun**

We celebrated Pancake Day with:

- Pancakes for snack time
- Playdough pancake-making
- Squeezing lemons into water—great for strengthening little hands
- Baking delicious jam tarts with Anna (the smell in the room was amazing!)

## **Songs of the Week**

Our musical favourites have been:

- *Two Little Dickie Birds*
- *Little Miss Muffet*
- *Five Little Monkeys Sitting in the Tree*
- *If You're Happy and You Know It*
- *Dingle Dangle Scarecrow*

The children have been singing with such enthusiasm—it's been a joy to hear.

## Lycra Games – What Are They?

The children have absolutely loved taking part in our *lycra games* this week.

Using a large, stretchy piece of lycra fabric, the children work together to:

- Shake it
- Bounce soft toys
- Crawl underneath
- Stretch and pull as a group

These activities support:

- Teamwork and turn-taking
- Body awareness and coordination
- Sensory regulation
- Confidence in group play

It's a simple activity with huge developmental benefits—and lots of laughter.

## Meet the Team – Week 4: Zoey



Hi, I'm Zoey!

I've been part of the Bumblebees team for just under a year, and I absolutely love working with your little ones. Watching them grow, develop, and achieve something new—whether big or small—fills me with pride every single day.

When I'm not in Bumblebees, I'm teaching children to swim. I've been a swim teacher for 22 years, and when I'm not doing that, I'm usually with my boys... which mostly involves football!

Come back after half term to see who's next in our "Meet the Team" series.

**Here are some reminders from our SEN Team-**

## SOS Sessions – Share Our Strategies

We recently held two more SOS sessions, and it was wonderful to see parents supporting one another and sharing experiences. We always bring ideas to discuss, but what we love most is when *you* take the lead and shape the session.

We offer two sessions—one morning and one afternoon:

- **Monday, 23rd March at 9:00**
- **Thursday, 26th March at 13:00**

There's no pressure to share—listening is absolutely fine. And of course, there will be tea, coffee, and biscuits.

## Makaton for Parents

We're excited to launch our very first *Makaton for Parents* sessions. Makaton is a wonderful tool that supports communication for all children, not just those with speech delays.

Session dates:

- **Wednesday, 25th February at 14:30**
- **Tuesday, 3rd March at 9:00**

If you'd like to attend either the SOS workshop or the Makaton sessions (or both!), please let us know so we can plan ahead.



## Bumblebees Come and Play Sessions

A little reminder that our *Come and Play* sessions are still open for sign-ups. There's plenty of time to let us know if you'd like to join—these sessions are relaxed, fun, and a lovely way to spend time in the room with your child.



## Low-Cost Half-Term Activity Ideas

Here are some simple, budget-friendly activities to enjoy at home:

- **Nature treasure hunt** – collect sticks, leaves, stones, and make a collage
- **Homemade playdough** – flour, salt, water, and a splash of food colouring
- **Water play** – bowls, cups, spoons, and a towel underneath
- **Sock puppets** – old socks + pens + imagination
- **Obstacle course** – cushions, tunnels, chairs to climb under
- **Baking together** – simple biscuits or fairy cakes
- **Storytime picnic** – a blanket on the floor and a pile of favourite books

Little ones don't need much—just time, space, and someone to share it with.



## Well-Being Tip for Parents

Half term can be busy, but remember:

**You don't need to entertain your child every minute.**

Slow moments matter too. A quiet cup of tea while they play beside you is still a connection. Be gentle with yourself—you're doing brilliantly.

## **See You After Half Term!**

We hope you all have a restful, happy break filled with play, cuddles, and fresh air. We can't wait to welcome our little Bumblebees back after half term and hear all about their adventures. Any questions please don't hesitate to email me on [c.leighton@lanterns.hants.sch.uk](mailto:c.leighton@lanterns.hants.sch.uk)

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead,

**Cora and the Bumblebees Team** 