On Thursday 2\textsuperscript{nd} March the Pre-School Centre celebrated World Book Day by asking all staff and children to dress up as their favourite book character! The costumes were fantastic, we have some very talented parents.

Usborne books were also here and we received some lovely new books about the Outdoors for the Centre.
It was an early start for some of us on Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} March as we prepared for the Pre-School Centre Healthy Breakfast, we didn’t mind as it’s always such a lovely occasion.

The breakfast was a huge success with parents and children chatting with new friends and old.

Adele’s fruit platters were very popular along with granola, porridge, toast and an array of cereals.
We would like to take this opportunity to thank Juicafe for providing the lovely smoothies.

We had some very special visitors delivered to the Pre-School on Monday 27\textsuperscript{th} March.

We are delighted to say all 8 of our eggs have hatched.

As they move into their new home don’t miss any of their antics, keep up to date by watching on the chickcam.

http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/streaming/scratch/17-03-27_pre-school/eggs2chicks2017.html

We would like to thank ISS for their help in getting the chickcam set up.
Sensory and Messy play

This month in the Baby room we have been focussing on Sensory and Messy play activities, which provides the babies with many new experiences. We started off the theme with fruit tasting, including blueberries, mango, pineapple, papaya, water melon and avocado. The babies loved the new fruits and also exploring the colours and textures.

To continue this theme we planned to have natural yoghurt and then jelly in shallow trays for the babies to look at and touch. We placed cars in the natural yoghurt to encourage the babies to play in it and this helped some babies who were a little apprehensive at first.

We purchased some large green trays that attach to the highchairs. This will allow us to do more malleable and messy activities while keeping the babies clean. These trays can double up as a large surface for babies to eat their lunch when they are beginning to feed themselves.

Enjoying Spring changes

This month in Crèche 1 we have been looking at growth and changes in the environment.

Spring is a fantastic time to introduce this topic as so many changes are happening around us.

Daffodils look and smell beautiful, the children enjoyed painting their own.

Grass pots were carefully planted and nurtured, the children carefully took turns to water them.
Outdoors Activity with Crèche 2

After our visit to Seven Stars Professional Development Centre we came back with some great new ideas to enhance our “endless opportunities”.

We have also added different pots and pans with wooden spoons onto the outdoor fence for the children to make different sounds and express themselves. The children have particularly enjoyed exploring this area.

We are continuing to develop the outdoor area ready for Spring by enhancing the displays and making the areas more accessible.

Next term we will also be developing the planting areas with different plants, herbs, fruits and vegetables.

Rainbow Fun with Nursery 1

In Nursery 1 we have been learning about rainbows.

The children know that rainbows are made when the sun is shining and it’s raining at the same time.

They made a big rainbow using 5 colours, red, orange, yellow, green and blue.

We then made our own small rainbows using coloured rice. This encouraged the development of fine motor skills as they carefully positioned the rice.

Baking Delights with Nursery 2

This month we have been doing lots of baking. We made cupcakes and shortbread, it was delicious! We talked about measuring, weighing, stirring and how things change after being in the oven. New skills were developed as we mixed, stirred, rolled and cut out shapes.

We talked about how special our Mummies are and made Mother’s day cards.

It’s been lovely to welcome our new friends from Crèche as they settle and we are delighted our older children enjoy visiting Pre-School.
Pre-School’s little Scientists

Pre-School 1 became little scientists for British Science week and the children went on an exciting journey of discovery. The children got hands on with investigating technology, engineering and maths.

The little scientists discovered that flowers can change colour from drinking coloured water from their roots, up their stems to different parts of the flower.

We made erupting coke by dropping Mentos into the bottle and watching what happen, it was a fizz of excitement and erupted into a massive fountain taller than Sammy.

Blowing up balloons without blowing them up ourselves it was magic, we used water, lemon juice, baking soda in a small bottle, quickly placed the balloon over the top of the bottle and watched what happened.

Gill made an erupting volcano using vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice and food colouring, it was amazing, watching our very own erupting volcano explored with lava oozing from the top.

Other activities included making windmills to watch wind speeds outside, making rain catchers to measure rainfall. Watching the weather as it changed on a daily basis.

What a great and exciting week we have had.
Sponsored Puppy

We have some very exciting news in Pre-School 2 – we have sponsored a very special puppy who will grow up to do a very important job.

Her name is Hattie and she is a black Labrador and she is learning to be a guide dog. The children have been really excited to see her picture and find out how Hattie will help people who are blind or partially sighted.

We watched Hattie as she got used to travelling on trains and buses, noises in the environment and interacting with people and other animals.

We enjoy helping people in PS2 and are very happy to have Harriet join our team.

Healthy Living with Pre-School 3

Harvey taught the children about healthy living by involving the children in a variety of interactive magic activities. He introduced the special bag for breakfast and explained the importance of having breakfast as well as the healthy choices to make when choosing breakfast.

He spoke about Five a Day by showing different fruits and vegetables such as apples, pears, peppers, kiwi, orange and other foods which count like baked beans. Harvey was very impressed with the children’s wide knowledge of the different types available.

They were eager to join in the interactive activities. Harvey used a magic pump to teach the children the importance of water intake every day.

He also talked about keeping safe when it’s sunny, putting on sunscreen, wearing a hat and staying in the shade.
Over the last few weeks the children in Pre-School 3 have started taking part in Phonic activities. We have talked about what makes us good listeners. The children said using our ears, being quiet and not talking over other people.

We have been on listening walks in the garden and throughout the Pre-School Centre to put our listening skills into practice and to see what different sounds we could hear.

The children also enjoyed using the Ipad to guess what familiar sounds they could hear.

Following parent comments with regards to the lay-by parking, Philip Longton - Carbon, Environment and Sustainability Manager of the University came along to observe the traffic activity outside the Pre-School Centre.

During this observation he has advised that he witnessed a number of vehicles stopping and waiting on the yellow ‘keep clear’ zig-zag lines with their engines running waiting for a space to become available.

Whilst they were waiting however there were at least 6 vacant Pre-School drop-off spaces available on the perimeter road. In two cases, drivers were observed waiting on the zig-zag lines when 11 vacant spaces were available on the perimeter road.

Can we please ask that all parents remember to utilise all the available spaces for the Pre-School and not just the immediate lay-by as indicated above, this will improve the safety and accessibility of the lay-by whilst further reducing air pollution from waiting cars.
A reminder to all parents that the Pre-School Centre will be celebrating the opening of the Barefoot Walk on Wednesday 12th April at 12 noon.

Please note the following:-

- If your child attends on a Wednesday morning and has a booked lunch there is no need to do anything.

- If your child attends on a Wednesday morning, but does not usually have lunch you can book a picnic lunch for them from the main office, cost £1.90 (cash only).

- If your child does not normally attend and you would like them to join us please call into the office to advise us book their picnic lunch. It will be necessary for an adult to stay with child for the duration.

- If you have any questions please ask staff in the office.

A reminder that the Pre-School Centre are collecting Sainsbury’s Active Kids vouchers.

The collection box for vouchers is the main reception. Please keep collecting.
Bon Voyage Katie & Yan
We would like to take this opportunity to wish Katie and Yan both from Pre-School 3 good luck as they leave the Pre-School Centre onto pastures new!!

Diary Dates

- Bear Hunt Picnic – 12th April 12 noon
- Easter Closure Wednesday 12th April 5.30pm re-open Thursday 20th April

Term Dates

Date:-
20th April until 25th August 2017

Undergraduate Terms:-
24th April until 30th June 2017

Invoicing Dates
27th March until 28th April 2017 – 4 weeks
1st May until 26th May 2017 – 4 weeks
29th May until 30th June 2017 – 5 weeks
3rd July until 28th July 2017 – 4 weeks
31st July until 25th August 2017 - 4 weeks