

**This week's bulletin has been prepared by:** Janet

**My favourite thing about Pre-School this week is:** making colourful flags

**Our focus for the week is:** Flags



#### **Pre-School Leader's News:**

We hope you have all had a good week. This week at Pre-School, we're thinking about 'flags'. Those of you with friends and relatives in the United States may also be looking forward to celebrating the 4<sup>th</sup> July at the weekend. Some of you may be watching past Wimbledon highlights on the television, too.

I hope you have all received the Transition Reports and End of Year Summaries that were emailed out last Friday. I am pleased that some families have also taken up the opportunity for telephone consultations. Ruth will be emailing shortly the end of year questionnaire to all parents. Please do take the time to complete and return it. We really do appreciate the feedback, and it provides us with useful evidence when we come to inspections. We also use the information you give us to plan our provision for next and future years.

So, why flags? It's a great topic! We can talk about countries of the world. Our Pre-School community has members from lots of different countries – we can look at their flags and decide which are similar and different. Flags are also used to give instructions – what about the chequered flag for motor racing? Flags can be used for communication. The rainbow flag is associated with Pride and we are beginning to see blue flags in support of the NHS. I watched the Glastonbury TV coverage and flags are very much present at music festivals, parties and celebrations. Young people used flags to convey their message at recent environmental protests and longer ago, church groups, trades unions and women's suffrage groups would use flags to signal their membership and causes. People from different cultures and religions use flags in their spiritual lives – prayer flags in Tibet. So, long live a bit of flag waving – particularly this week at Handsworth Pre-School! *Best wishes, Janet*

#### **Craft Activities:**

Make your own flags: you can choose different materials – foil, paper, tissue, fabric – to make your flags. You can make them in different shapes – rectangle, triangle (bunting), circles, hexagons etc...

These 'roll' flags would look great if you make a few. Can you make lots in different colours?

You can try cutting some symmetrical patterns for Mexican fiesta flags. You could try using thin paper or tissue paper and paste them up along a window to make a colourful display. You could try at home. The example in the picture uses thin fabric too.

Flags a bit much? Try paper chains...

What about bunting? Try to do a different design on each flag? At Pre-School this week, we have been making bunting out of the first letters of our names. You could make all the letters of your child's name and ask them to colour, stick or decorate each one. You could then ask your child to order the flags correctly to spell their name.



### Play Ideas:

If you have made bunting, fiesta or festival flags – what are you celebrating? Can you set up a birthday party for your toys? Perhaps you've made some bunting to dress up a stall? Are you going to sell some home-made cakes or sandwiches or drinks? Perhaps you're setting up a market stall full of fruit, veg or colourful flowers?

What about transport? Can you make a chequered flag and run your own grand prix? Could you make a flag from your team's colours? What about boats – can you use the internet to find the meaning of some flags used by the Royal Navy? What message would you send? What about flags at airports? If you are lucky enough to have been on a plane, did you see someone using flags (or paddles) to direct the plane? Can you make some aeroplane flags and make sure your plane takes off and lands safely?

Do you have your own tropical island or desert hideaway? Can you make a flag for your own country? Who lives there with you? Are there stamps and coins that have the same patterns and colours as your country's flag?

Have you built a castle? Have you got your flag on the turrets? Don't forget that sandcastles need flags, too. If you are being a brave Knight, are you riding on your horse? Are you looking for lost treasure, or off to slay a dragon?

### **Books, Stories, Rhymes Etc**

- Usborne First Sticker Book: Flags of the World  
The Flag Book (Lonely Planet Kids)

Can you ask a grown up to look up 'semaphore flags' on the internet? Can you find the shapes to make for the letters of your name?

Songs and Rhymes have been a bit tricky this week. We made up our own flags songs, to the tune of '10 green bottles'. We tried:

"10 colourful flags, flapping in the wind  
10 colourful flags, flapping in the wind  
And if one colourful flag  
Should accidentally fall, there'll be...."

We also tried: "2 jolly rogers, flapping on the mast..."

You could try: "5 birthday buntings, swaying in the breeze" or "3 chequered flags, waving at the cars..."

...or whatever you can imagine! (We would love to hear your variations...)

### **Exploring Number and Shape:**

You can explore shape by changing the shapes of the flags you make.

There is a poster of the flags of the world attached. Can you count how many flags there are? How many have animals on them? Can you spot the colours and shapes? How many have stripes? How many have red/blue/yellow/white/green etc? What other shapes can you see on the flags?

There is a European Flag challenge attached. Can you use the internet, with help from Mum or Dad, to find out where some of these countries are? Do you recognise any of the flags? Have you visited any of the countries either on holiday or to see family and friends?