

St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 2 - October 2017

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

The government funding for three to five year old children is a maximum of fifteen or thirty hours per week, for thirty eight weeks of the year. This terms entitlement is for 14 weeks, and nursery is open for 16 weeks. Those children accessing the funded hours only will have one week holiday, commencing Monday 30th October, and returning to nursery on Monday 6th November.

St Catherine's R.C. Primary School will be closed for half term from Monday 30th to Friday 3rd November. This means the children who normally have hot lunches will **need to be provided with a packed lunch** during this time as the kitchen will be closed.

The second weeks holiday for funded only children will be from the week commencing Monday 18th December, and all children will return to nursery after the Christmas holidays on Monday 8th January 2018.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 24th October – Dress up day – Favourite story book character

Half term – Mon 30th Oct to Fri 3rd Nov 2017

Tuesday 5th December - Nativity (nursery closed in the afternoon)

Friday 8th December - Children's Christmas Party (nursery closed in the morning)

Wednesday 13th December – Parents Evening

Tuesday 19th December – Nursery closes at 6pm for Christmas holiday

Monday 8th January 2018 - Nursery re-opens after Christmas holiday

Half term – Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018

Wednesday 28th March – Nursery closes at 6pm for Easter holiday

Monday 9th April – Nursery re-opens after Easter break

Monday 16th April – Funded only children return to nursery after Easter break.

Half term – Mon 28th May to Fri 1st June 2018

New Policies September 2017

Parents please make yourself familiar with our new policies and procedures which you are able to view from our website. In particular, our safeguarding, late collection and non-collection of a child, lost child policies and procedures, and Complaints and Compliments. If you do not have access to the internet please request to view these policies at nursery or ask to be provided with copies. If you have any queries or would like to contribute your ideas regarding our policies and procedures please feel free to speak to a member of staff.

The policy of the month is Safeguarding and Child Protection, please find the policy attached to this newsletter.

NSPCC – Talk PANTS

The NSPCC has designed its own hard-hitting education campaign, 'Talk PANTS' encouraging parents to talk to their children about the Underwear Rule – a preventative conversation which could help keep children safe from sexual abuse.

Please find attached the NSPCC guide for parents, and below is a link to the NSPCC Talk PANTS.

Talking PANTS teaches children important messages, like their body belongs to them and they should tell an adult if they're upset or worried.

To get the conversation started get together and singalong with the Pantosaurus song (Available on the link below).

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

e-Safety

We encourage all parents to complete a free online e-safety briefing which provides advice and support for families about how to minimise the risks to children when using the internet. Please follow the link below

<https://moodle.ndna.org.uk>

Dress up day

On Tuesday 24th October we are having a dress up day for the children where they come into nursery dressed up as their favourite story book character. If your child doesn't attend nursery on a Tuesday then they can dress up on a day they do attend.

Mathematics in the home

This half term we are mainly focusing on Mathematics and urge parents to get involved

at home to teach their child essential mathematic life skills.

Maths is everywhere in the home. With the support of parents, children can grasp many mathematical concepts through their play.

Children will begin to:

- know and understand early maths language of measurement, shapes, spaces, positions, early numbers, order and patterns
- know the sequence of numbers
- begin to understand positional words, e.g. in, on, outside
- show an awareness of time
- be aware of shapes in their environment
- be aware of 1-to-1 correspondence
- acquire new vocabulary
- learn number rhymes and songs, e.g. one, two, buckle my shoe etc.
- be aware of conservation

When we say a child “knows her numbers” what we often mean is that she can recite the names of numbers in ascending order. This is quite useful to be able to do, but it means very little in itself.

Children need to come to know what the number system really means. They can be helped to do this through play. One of the first things they have to learn is about conservation – that 3 is always 3 no matter how it is arranged or presented, whether it is the number 3, the letters for three, 3 bricks, 3 buttons on a coat or 3 Billy Goats Gruff. Before a child can understand numbers for things that can be seen – 3 miles, 3 years old – s/he needs real objects which can be seen and handled with a chance to check that the count is right each time.

Young children have many mathematical experiences in their home environment.

For example:

- they learn about money as they go shopping with parents
- become aware of numbers as they count the stairs to bed
- start to understand the concept of time as they become familiar with the routine of their day – wash, dress, breakfast etc.

A child’s daily life offers many practical opportunities to learn about number, shape, space, sorting and matching.

For instance:

- setting places at the table – a cup for me, a cup for you
- playing with water
- steering the pram
- helping to sort the washing, matching socks, big shirt / small shirt
- tidying up – putting similar items together
- matching lids to saucepans

Here are a few ways in which you can use play to learn mathematical concepts.

Sand and Water

- Using sand can develop mathematical concepts and language, e.g. heavy, light, empty, full, big, little
- Conservation – how much will it hold

- Make shapes and patterns
- Provide boxes and materials of different shapes and sizes to compare weight and quantity
- Look at the differences between wet and dry as a means of looking at weights language
- You can help to promote mathematical language such as – heavy, light, empty, full, long, short, big, small in relevant contexts
- Look at your home environment to develop language, especially positional words – small object in front of big object, behind, in, on.

Dough

The use of dough can help to develop a mathematical understanding for pre-school children.

- Develops mathematical language – short, long, fat, thin
- Make shapes of different dimensions – flat shapes, 3-d shapes
- Create opportunities to compare things that float with things that do not

Imaginative Play

- Simple activities like letting your child set the table for dinner can help develop counting skills, e.g. getting out three pieces of cutlery.
- Involve your child with household activities. After washing, allow your child to sort clothes into different colours, or different types of clothes, e.g. t-shirts and socks. This will help to develop a child's knowledge of shapes and colours.

Books and Rhymes

Enjoy stories and rhymes with your child that has a mathematical element, e.g. "One-two, Buckle my Shoe",

This can also help to develop literacy skills by showing your child that the print reads from left to right.

Let your child count out items in the books – how many animals are on the page, how many items are blue.

Using rhymes can also help develop your child's awareness of sequencing

Physical Play

- Develop fine motor skills through physical activity, e.g. Sorting out a jigsaw, Threading beads
- Block play or playing with toy cars can help to develop sequencing by encouraging your child to sequence according to size, colour, use (e.g. bike, car, lorry)
- Playing with different sized blocks can help to develop an understanding of weight and dimensions.
- Tidying toys away allows children to sort into different sizes and colours.
- It can also develop mathematical language – first, second, third, how many are blue, which is largest / smallest.

Nature

By planting seeds you can help to develop your child's understanding of time and the life cycle of plants. Watch as the plants grow and even measure your plant – develop language such as taller.

Teach your child about the different seasons and plant different items at different times of the year to compare colours, flowers, smells.

There are many opportunities for learning Maths through Play. For more ideas on Learning through Play, get a copy of "I Want To Play", a publication full of practical ideas to use at home with young children, available at Early Years, 6c Wild flower Way, Apollo Road, Belfast, BT12 6TA, Tel: 028 9066 2825

Literacy

The Literacy Trust have put together a handy guide for parents on the best Literacy apps to support young children's language and literacy development. Please follow the link below:

<http://literacyapps.literacytrust.org.uk/>

Early Years Mark Making & Pre-Writing

Please find attached a parent's guide on Early years mark making and pre-writing.

Children's Council

We are introducing the concept of a 'Children's Council' to all of the new children, to provide children with a voice, so that they have their say in what happens in nursery.

One child from each keyperson group will volunteer every half term, and a child will be elected as the Chair person. The group will meet every week to discuss the topic of the week. For example; Snack Menu - what food do they like and would they like to eat that isn't currently available, resources and toys they like or don't play with and why, or songs and music they would like to sing or hear.

By consulting with children, it will build their self-esteem and a council is a great way to enable an understanding of the need for democracy. One of the four aspects of the Fundamental British Values.

Sound of the Week

w/c 2nd October – 'i'

w/c 9th October – 'p'

w/c 16th October – 'n'

w/c 23rd October – 'ck'

w/c 30th October – 'e'

Word of the Week

w/c 2nd October – 'thinking'

w/c 9th October – 'pretending'

w/c 16th October – 'persisting'

w/c 23rd October – ‘curiosity’

w/c 30th October – ‘senses’

Nursery Rhyme of the week

w/c 2nd October– Five little ducks

w/c 9th October – One two buckle my shoe

w/c 16th October – Hickory Dickory Dock

w/c 23rd October – Ten green bottles

w/c 30th October – The Grand old Duke of York

Used Children’s Magazines needed

If you have any used children’s magazines, please bring them to nursery and they will be placed in the book room for the children.

Conkers, Acorns and Sycamore Needed for Mud Kitchen

Please help your child to collect all of the above for our Mud Kitchen, as they are vital ingredients for making a Mud Pie!!

Sponsored Treasure Trail

We are holding our annual “Sponsored Treasure Trail” to raise money for the children’s Christmas Party, organising the entertainer, the party food, a special visit from a certain guy with a white beard, and the gifts that he brings! Everyone should find a “Sponsor Sheet” and a “Treasure Trail Sheet” in their child’s tray. Simply collect names on your sponsor sheet, then complete the “Treasure Trail” by either collecting the objects or drawing a picture and return it to the nursery where the children will receive a certificate of completion. Once you have the certificate you can collect the money and return it to the nursery. Who is going to be the first to collect all the items and receive their certificate?

Please return the “Treasure Trail” no later than Friday 10th November and collect all monies by Friday 17th November. Happy Hunting!

First aid

All nursery staff hold a Paediatric First aid certificate which are available to view on request.

Yours sincerely

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager