

St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 5 - January 2018

Nursery Trustees – Jayne Chester (OFSTED nominated person), Lisa Maddock, and Belinda Pearson

Registered Charity Number:- 1152421

Ofsted Number – EY488889

Telephone: 01772 456304

Email - info@stcatherinesnursery.co.uk

Website - www.stcatherinesnursery.co.uk

Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to “WELCOME” all the new children and their parents into the nursery, and we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and all the best for 2018.

Under the “Early Years Foundation Stage” framework it is an “OFSTED” welfare requirement that the nursery holds private and confidential information on all the children entering nursery. For existing families at nursery please ensure that the information that we store is still relevant otherwise your Registration and Contact form will need to be renewed.

It is nursery policy to ask all parents to sign their children in and out on the daily register provided, this is an “OFSTED” condition as part of the nursery’s registration. The children’s register is situated on the cupboard which houses the children’s trays.

The government funding for three to five-year-old children is a maximum of fifteen hours per week, for thirty-eight weeks of the year. This terms entitlement is for 11 weeks, and nursery is open for 12 weeks. Those children accessing the funded hours only will have a one-week holiday, commencing 12th February, and returning to nursery on Monday 19th February.

Dates for your Diary

Half term – Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2018 (Funded only children)

Wednesday 21st March – Parent’s Evening

Wednesday 28th March – Nursery closes at 6pm for Easter holiday (All children)

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

Nursery email addresses

Main Nursery email address ~ info@stcatherinesnursery.co.uk

You can contact your child's individual Keyperson via their email address regarding; their unique learning journey, suggested next steps in their learning and development, your child's current interests at home and special moments at home or anything else you feel is important to share.

Keyperson email addresses ~

Mrs Marriott ~ mrsmmarriott@outlook.com

Mrs Handyside ~ mrsjhandyside@outlook.com

Mrs Leonard ~ mrslleonard@outlook.com

Mrs Worsley ~ mrsworsley@outlook.com

Mrs Weir ~ mrsjeweir@outlook.com

Mrs Critchley ~ mrsklcritchley@outlook.com

Sound of the Week

To all our new parents ~ Letters and Sounds is a six-phase programme designed to help teach children to read and spell with phonics. At Nursery we will be concentrating on Phase One. The aim of this phase is to foster children's speaking and listening skills as preparation for learning to read with phonics. Parents can play a vital role in helping their children develop these skills, by encouraging their children to listen carefully and talk extensively about what they hear, see and do.

Each week we have a 'Sound of the Week', for instance the sound of the week for the week commencing 8th January 2018 is 'u', we ask parents to help their child to bring in something from home with the sound 'u' for our sound box.

w/c 15th January – 'L'

w/c 22nd January – 'F'

w/c 29th January – 'B'

w/c 5th February – 'S'

Nursery Rhyme of the week

Reading, reciting and singing nursery rhymes are an excellent way to help children get ready to read. When a child chants a rhyme repeatedly, they develop key pre-reading skills such as the ability to hear the distinct sounds that make up words, discern sound and word patterns and broaden their vocabulary. Studies have shown that the more nursery rhymes a child knows, the easier it will be for children to learn to read. The nursery rhyme of the week will be sung at singing time, and we encourage parents to sing the nursery rhyme at home with their child.

Below is a list of the next few Nursery Rhymes of the Week;

This week the nursery rhyme will be 'Five little snowmen'

The w/c 15th January it will be, 'One, two buckle my shoe'
The w/c 22nd January it will be 'Five little monkeys'
The w/c 29th January it will be 'Ten green bottles'
The w/c 5th February it will be 'Five Fat Sausages'

Please follow this link for all the song sheets

<http://www.nurseryrhymes.org/numbers.html>

Word of the Week

The staff incorporate the 'Word of the week' into normal routines and activities throughout the day, and we ask parents to join in at home to develop their child's vocabulary. We have been very impressed with the children using the 'Word of the Week' in the correct context whilst playing with their friends. Please let a member of staff know if your children have been using any of the words of the week at home.

w/c 8th January – 'tradition'

w/c 15th January – 'satisfied'

w/c 22nd January – 'attention'

w/c 29th January – 'senses'

w/c 5th February – 'pretending'

Main Focus for Learning and Development

This half term we will be focusing on Mathematics, Numbers and Shape, Space and Measures. Attached to this newsletter is a handy leaflet for parents with an abundance of simple maths activities for you to do with your child at home, to help them develop their maths skills.

Parental involvement in nursery planning

This half term we are focussing on 'Winter' and 'Dark and light'. We would like parents to take part in our Winter themed topic, and we suggest Winter walks in the park where you can talk and think about winter themed words, i.e.; frost, ice, snow, crisp, fresh. A large percentage of children at nursery are particularly interested in playing in the dark with torches, so we are focussing on 'Light and Dark' this half term too. We suggest that parents talk to their children about light and dark and ask simple questions, such as; When is it light? When is it dark? How can we make it light or dark? Talk about different light sources i.e. torch, candle, lamp, sun, moon, and stars. Please use one of our 'Special Moments' sheets to inform your child's keyperson of any learning and development that takes place, or add any comments to your child's online learning journey.

Home Library

Our Home Library at nursery has a selection of “Story Bags”, which include books, puppets, games, recipes, and lots more exciting ideas for you to interact with your child. Each bag also contains an information card with suggestions of how to use the items.

As some of the items inside the bags are quite expensive, we are asking for a deposit of £10.00, which will be refunded when your child leaves nursery, if no loss or damage has occurred.

If you are interested in taking part in the home library, please speak with your key-person.

The “Story Bags” will be yours for a period of one week, after this time please return them to the nursery. All the components of the bags will be checked to ensure that they are complete before they are issued.

Please ensure that that a member of staff has verified that the bags are complete on their return otherwise you will be held financially responsible for any missing components.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS sets the statutory standards that all early year’s providers must meet. This includes all maintained schools, non-maintained schools, independent schools and all providers on the Early Years Register.

The EYFS aims to provide:

- quality and consistency in all early year’s settings
- a secure foundation that will allow all children good progress through school and life
- partnerships between different practitioners
- partnerships between parents or carers and practitioners
- equality of opportunity for all children

For more information regarding the EYFS please check out these internet sites;

www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents/

www.education.gov.uk

Policy of the Month

Please find attached our ‘Complaints and Compliments’ policy for you to read. If you have 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.

Nursery **policies and procedures** are available to view on our website, and I urge parents to **become familiar** with them. If you do not have access to the internet you

can request to view our policies and procedures at any time, just speak to a member of staff who would be happy to assist you.

Please follow the link below to view our policies and procedures:

<http://www.stcatherinesnursery.co.uk/policy-documents/>

British Values

Under the Government plans, announced by the education secretary Nicky Morgan, early years settings have to teach children 'fundamental British values' in an age-appropriate way. The teaching of such values will include learning right from wrong, learning to take turns and share, and challenging negative attitudes and stereotypes. Ofsted will be required to inspect early years providers against this criteria. Please find attached a copy of St Catherine's Independent Nursery's British Values statement, which shows how we promote British Values within our setting. In addition, we incorporate the British Values into our medium-term planning which is attached to this newsletter.

Staff Roles

For your information, please take note of the following staff roles below:

Helen Brockliss – Nursery Manager: Designated Safeguarding Officer

Mary Marriott – Deputy Manager: Designated Safeguarding Officer, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Health and Safety Officer

Jane Handyside: Equalities Named Coordinator (ENCO), Designated Safeguarding Officer

Louise Leonard: Parental Involvement Coordinator (PICO)

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.

Suggestion Box

A parents Suggestion Box is located near the fish tank, please feel free to jot down any ideas you have that could improve any aspect of nursery and post it into the box provided!

We value all suggestions!!

Change4Life Campaign

The new Change4Life campaign encourages parents to give children healthy snacks such as rice cakes rather than chocolate or sweets.

The aim of the [campaign](#) by Public Health England (PHE) is to help parents 'take control' of their children's snacking by promoting healthier snacks.

It is in response to concerns that children are consuming three times more sugar than recommended, leading to obesity and dental decay. According to PHE, half of children's sugar intake, currently around seven sugar cubes a day, comes from unhealthy snacks and sugary drinks.

As such, the campaign encourages parents to swap unhealthy snacks such as ice-cream, crisps and chocolate for two 100 calorie snacks a day such as malt loaf, rice cakes and drinks with no added sugar.

For more information please follow the link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids/100-calorie-snacks>

Dance and Mini-Maestros

Just a polite reminder that there is a charge of £1.50 per session for Dance and Mini-maestros for all children.

Yours sincerely

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager

Helping your child learn at home in

MATHS



school?

In the street

- Recognising bus numbers
- Number plate hunt. Who can find a 7? Add the numbers up.
- Comparing door numbers
- Counting – how many lampposts on the way to

Doing the washing

- Counting in 2s – matching shoes
- Sorting by colour and size.
- Matching/pairing up socks.
- Find four shoes that are different sizes. Can you put them in order.





Time

- What day is it yesterday, today, tomorrow?
- Use timers, phones and clocks to measure short periods of time.
- Count down 10/ 20 seconds to get to the table/ into bed etc.
- Recognising numbers on the clock. If you cover a number, what number was missing?



Food!

- Can you cut your toast into 4 pieces? Can you cut it into triangles?
- Setting the table. Counting the right number of plates etc. How many more do we need?
- Can you make shapes/ patterns out of the knives and forks. Can you put them in the right place in the drawers?
- Helping with the cooking by measuring and counting ingredients.
- Setting the timer.
- Positional language at dinner time: what is on the rice, where are the carrots etc?

Going shopping

- Reading price tags
- Counting items into the basket
- Finding and counting coins
- Comparing weights – which is heavier



Measuring

- Are you taller than a ...?
 - Marking height on the wall.
 - Cut hand shapes out of paper.
 - How many hands long is the couch?
 - How long is the table? Which is longer?
 - Who has the biggest hands in our family?
- How many steps from the gate to the front door?

Shapes

- Cut a potato into shapes (circles, triangle etc). Use with paint to make pictures and patterns.
- Cut out shapes from coloured paper/newspaper and arrange into pictures.
- Shape hunt: Can you find a square in your house (windows etc), a circle ...



Playdough

Here's a simple recipe:

1 cup of plain flour

1 cup of water

1 tablespoon cooking oil

2 teaspoons cream of tartar

Half a cup of salt

***food colouring and essences
(optional)***



Put all ingredients in a large saucepan, and heat slowly, stirring all the time until it forms a ball. Keep it wrapped in clingfilm or in a covered tub to stop it drying out.

Then

- Make numerals and shapes
- Sort shapes into groups, or order by size
- Make long and short wiggly snakes.

Games

- Putting cards into piles
- Jigsaws (you can make your own by cutting up a magazine picture)
- Snap (matching pairs) or Happy Families (collect 4 of a kind)



- Snakes and ladders or other simple dice games.
- Adding numbers on two dice.
- Bingo, with numbers or shapes
- Hopscotch

Number rhymes and songs

Eg: *5 little monkeys jumping on the bed*

One fell off and bumped his head

Mummy called the doctor and the doctor said

"No more monkeys jumping on the bed!"

4 little monkeys jumping on the bed ...



Your child can teach you lots more or try this website which has the words and sings it for you:

http://www.nurseryrhymes4u.com/NURSERY_RHYMES/COUNTING.html

Internet maths games:

www.mathszone.co.uk

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/online_math_games.html

www.sesamestreet.org

