**St Catherine’s Independent Nursery - Newsletter 7 - March 2018**

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

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We are having an Easter Extravaganza week, the week commencing 19th March, below are various events we have planned.

**Monday 19th March** – Cake sale, please bring donations of cakes or biscuits for us to sell during the day and week. Easter Egg Hunt

**Tuesday 20th March** – Easter themed “dress up” day, for those children attending on this day.

**Wednesday 21st March** – Decorate a hard-boiled egg competition- prizes to be awarded.

**Thursday 22nd March** – Easter Bonnet Parade.

**Friday 23rd March** – Easter Egg Hunt

Please note: hard boiled eggs, and Easter bonnets are to be decorated at home and brought to nursery.

There will also be an Easter Raffle, and Guess the “Bunny’s” name. Please support us in our celebrations. We would be grateful for donations for the raffle, such as Easter eggs, soft toys etc.

**Dates for your Diary**

**Wednesday 21st March – Parent’s Evening**

**Friday 23rd March – Deadline for Parent Questionnaires**

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

**Thursday 29th March – Friday 13th April Half term for funded only children**

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

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

**Monday 7th May – Bank Holiday Monday – Nursery closed**

**Friday 18th May – Annual Farm Trip**

**Monday 28th May – Bank Holiday Monday – Nursery closed**

**Half term for funded only children – Mon 28th May to Fri 1st June 2018**

**Friday 13th July – Graduation Party for children leaving for school**

**Wednesday 18th July – Parent’s Evening**

**Friday 20th July – Funded only children’s last day of the Summer term.**

**Parents Evening**

We are holding an informal Parents Evening on Wednesday 21st March.

We would encourage all parents to make an appointment with their child’s key-person as we strongly feel that this is an invaluable opportunity to share information on the development of your children.

Please ensure you have received, completed and returned the ‘What to Expect and When’ document to your child’s keyperson by Wednesday 14th March.

**Home needed for Big the Gold Fish**

Can anyone give our fish a home for Easter? He is very house trained and does not take a lot of looking after. If you are interested, please see a member of staff.

**Mathematics in the Home – Home Library**

As you are aware our main-focus for learning and development throughout this term is Mathematics, and we urge parents to get involved at home to teach their child essential mathematic life skills.

We have recently purchased engaging, monster-themed maths games designed by Alice Sharp, all contained in five handy take home backpacks.

This set features a delightful monster character in each bag, all with an assortment of accessories and an activity booklet packed with ideas for maths games.

The activities help to embed early maths concepts such as sorting, matching pairs, size, pattern, sequencing, shapes and opposites. Children will love finding the monsters, matching socks, dressing him in a patterned tie and glasses, finding the right sized shirt or seeing what is in his bag.

As the sets 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 monster-themed maths 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.

**Parent Partnership Evening**

Huge thanks to all the parents who came to our parent partnership evening where we provided guidance on using the Evidence for Learning website, and the importance of parental engagement.

Some parents explained that they were having problems uploading photographs, and that the app crashed when trying to view videos of their children. If any other parents are experiencing any problems, please speak to Mrs Brockliss or Mrs Marriott and inform them of the problem you are having, what web browser and what device they are using, and the app designers will be able to fix the problem.

A few parents asked for some recommendations for Maths games for electronic devices. National Numeracy UK recommends lots of mathematical activities which have been reviewed and recommended by their Parental Engagement Pedagogical team. Please follow the link below:

<http://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/5-years-old-and-under/games>

We will be holding another Parent Partnership Evening next term on Letters and Sounds.

**Dance**

We will sadly be saying good-bye to Miss Nikki from Lancashire Dance Studio at the end of this term, as the children will start having Football lessons by ‘Diddy Dribblers’ instead of Dance. The cost (£1.50) will remain the same. If you have any questions regarding this decision, then please speak to Mrs Brockliss or Mrs Marriott.

**Priory Close**

Please do not park on Priory Close for the safety of the nursery and the school children. The residents of Priory Close have complained to the school about parents parking over their driveway, so please be considerate and park on Moss Lane.

**British Science Week 9th – 18th March**

[British Science Week](http://www.britishscienceweek.org/), run by the [British Science Association](https://www.britishscienceassociation.org/) is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths, featuring entertaining and engaging events and activities across the UK for people of all ages.

The theme this year is exploration and discovery, and over the week the children will take part in lots of exciting science-based activities. I have attached the Early Years Activity pack, as you may like to join in at home too!

We need the following resources please;

Clear bottles with lids and yoghurt pots

**Parent Questionnaires**

We would like to give you the opportunity to complete a questionnaire to help us improve our service. Please find a parent’s questionnaire in your child’s tray. Your views and opinions are highly valued, so please complete and return by Friday 23rd March.

**Sound of the Week**

w/c 5th March ‘p’

w/c 12th March ‘n’

w/c 19th March ‘ck’ (sock, clock, block, etc)

w/c 26th March ‘e’

w/c 16th April ‘h’

**Word of the week**

w/c 5th March ‘estimate’

w/c 12th March ‘thinking’

w/c 19th March ‘persisting’

w/c 26th March ‘curious’

w/c 16th April ‘independent’

**Nursery Rhyme of the week**

w/c 5th March ‘The Grand Ole Duke of York’

w/c 12th March ‘There where ten in the bed’

w/c 19th March ‘One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Once I caught a fish alive’

w/c 26th March ‘Five little Speckled Frogs’

w/c 16th April ‘Five little ducks’

**Policy of the Month**

Please find attached our ‘Medication’ 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/>

**Annual Farm-Trip**

This year for our Annual Day Trip, nursery will be visiting Smithills Open Farm. Attractions at the farm consist of a pet’s corner, donkey rides, ride on a tractor and trailer, bouncy castles, toy tractors, nature trail, owl display, milking cows. Children are allowed to hold small animals such as rabbits, chicks and guinea pigs. They are also given the opportunity to feed the calves, lambs and baby goats.

The trip will take place on **Friday 18th May** – Please note nursery is closed for normal business, and there are limited places for children to attend the trip with a member of staff. These places are available for children who attend on a Friday, and children that do in excess of the 30 funded hours will be given priority.

Adult- £11.00

Child- £11.50 (includes donkey and tractor ride)

Please note: Places will only be confirmed on full payment

To secure your booking all monies due must be paid before **Friday 4th May**.

We respectfully request that all parents arrive at Centurion Way (Farington Lodge end) promptly at **9.15 am,** for a **9.30.am. departure**. The coach will leave the farm at **2.00.p.m.** and return to Centurion Way.  All parents not attending the farm trip will need to make arrangements for their children to be collected from the coach. We hope to return by **3.00.pm.**  Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee this due to motorway traffic.

Any queries please speak to Mrs Brockliss or Mrs Marriott.

**50 things to do before you are 5!**

Playing with your child is one of the most important things you can do to support their development. The time you spend playing together will help them learn all sorts of things – from counting and writing, to exploring and making new friends.

The list of 50 things to do before you’re 5 will give you lots of ideas to support your child’s learning through play - Print it off, stick it on the fridge and tick off each activity! Most importantly have fun!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager