

St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 8 - April 2018

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

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

A huge "Thank You" goes out to all the children and their parents who supported the nursery Easter Extravaganza. The staff were so impressed with the parents' collaboration in the uptake of all the activities on offer and felt incredibly supported by you all.

It was important for us as a staff team, to include every child that comes to nursery with some form of Easter activity, hence a daily challenge. We were very aware that the mums and dads whose children attend nursery full time, had a massive task on their hands, although each and every one of you rose to the challenge. So "CONGRATULATIONS" to you all.

We would like to take this opportunity in welcoming you all back after the Easter break and to also extend a very warm "**WELCOME**" to all the new children and their parents who have recently joined the nursery.

Please take a Special Moments sheet to record your family traditions over the Easter period, or leave some comments and/or photographs on your child's learning journey.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 19th April – Mrs Murphy returns to nursery from Maternity Leave

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.

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.p.m.** Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee this due to motorway traffic.

For safety reasons all children are required to wear their nursery uniforms whether or not they are accompanied by their parents. As we can never rely on the weather, please provide your child/children with a rain proof coat. If you or your child suffers from travel sickness please take medication before the trip.

All children coming with staff will require a packed lunch and drink, please use disposable wrappings and place in a named plastic carrier bag. **(no glass bottles or cans)**

Spending money of no more than £5.00, placed in a sealed envelope with your child's name on it will be required as we will have a visit to the farm shop.

There is an on-site café at Smithills farm.

Any queries please speak to Mrs Brockliss or Mrs Marriott.

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;

W/C – 16th April – Five little ducks

W/C – 23rd April – Incy-Wincy Spider

W/C – 30th April - Hickory Dickory Dock

W/C – 7th May - Five Little Speckled Frogs

Follow the link below for all of the words to the nursery rhymes above and more!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/earlylearning/nurserysongs>

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 – 16th April – Independent

W/C – 23rd April – Focus

W/C – 30th April - Interest

W/C – 7th May – Decide

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 will have a 'Sound of the Week', and this week it is the letter 'a', therefore we ask parents if you could help your child to bring in something from home beginning with the letter 'a' for our sound box.

W/C – 16th April – 'h'

W/C – 23rd April – 'i'

W/C – 30th April – p

W/C – 7th May – 'n'

Teaching Children New Words

A good vocabulary (knowing and understanding words) is so important for children when they are learning to talk; it has an impact in lots of different ways. Please find attached a very informative factsheet on how parents can support their child in learning new words.

Policy of the Month

Please find attached our 'Accidents and First Aid' policy for you to read. 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.

Nursery **policies and procedures** are available to view on our website, and I urge parents to **become familiar** with them. In particular please be aware of our **Safeguarding/child protection policy, Compliments and Complaints, Accidents and First Aid, Medication, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Late Collection and Non-Collection, and Lost Child Procedure from Nursery and Lost Child Procedure from Outings policies and procedures**. 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/>

Millie's Mark Award

We are proud to announce that we are in the process of achieving Millie's Mark. We are already half way there as all of our nursery staff have always been trained in Paediatric First Aid.

Millie's Mark is named after Millie Thompson, who died after choking on food at a nursery when she was just 9 months old. Millie's parents, Dan and Joanne Thompson founded Millie's Trust and have successfully campaigned for changes to first aid requirements.

The achievement of the mark acknowledges that staff would be confident in maybe one day saving a child's life if they needed to.

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 sing along with the Pantosaurus song (Available on the link below).
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

Recycled Nursery Jumpers

We have a number of used nursery jumpers available for only £1, ideal for a spare jumper. If you wish to buy one or two, please ask a member of staff. The proceeds will be used for new nursery resources

Parent's Questionnaires

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent questionnaire, again I must reiterate that we do appreciate your views and the children's views. Here are the suggestions from parents and children about how we can improve our service:

Parent's Views on how we can improve our service

'Just a quick summary of my child's day at nursery would be beneficial to me as a parent and to my child. For example; activity that I could do with her at home or support her in an area she is working on like maths, English or a creative task' –

If any parent would like to know about what their child has done at nursery, please speak to your child's keyperson. (I understand that sometimes it is quite difficult at busy picking up times to speak to your child's keyperson). You can always email your child's keyperson (see below for email addresses), check your child's next steps on their online learning journey. The newsletter always has plenty of ideas on how to support your child's learning at home. Check our Facebook page for posts on all the different activities the children have been participating in. We also have leaflets on our parent's information board on ideas for supporting children's learning at home. We have a Home Library Scheme whereby parents can loan either a Story, Maths or Rhyming activity bags from the nursery (please see below for more details).

Please remember if you have any concerns about your child or just wish to have a chat with their keyperson please don't wait until the next parents evening you can just book an appointment at yours and your child's keypersons convenience. If you have any other suggestions on how we can provide you with any information, then please post your ideas in our suggestion box.

'Communication about food' –

Unfortunately it is really difficult to remember what every child has had for their lunch, however if a child has struggled to eat their lunch and hasn't eaten much, we would always inform parents.

Children's views – Things we can do better

'Put more sparkles around' I am sure we can manage that!

'Make a big counting spider' Can do this too!

'I would like to play football at nursery' Diddy Dribblers starts on Tuesday 17th April!

'More things in the school hall' Unfortunately we only have one slot a week to use the school hall 😞

Parent's comments

'St Catherine's nursery is exceptionally run with excellent staff, who all are willing to go that extra step to help the children. I can't praise them enough for what they have done to help my daughter. I can safely say she is ready for school but only because of the encouragement and help from the staff at St Catherine's nursery'

'Staff have gone above and beyond to meet my son's needs as one of the youngest class members – supporting his speech acquisition, potty training and emotional and social development'

'She seems more conscience about rhyming sounds'

'My daughter and her key person get on really well'

'My daughter has started talking a lot more and I now understand every word she says'

'My son absolutely loves nursery and can't wait to go every-day!'

'Thank you for providing a safe and happy environment for my daughter. It was important for me as a parent to know she was placed where she would be treated as an individual and establish lasting relationships with children and teachers. It says a lot when the staff are a long serving team. It's a home away from home for her and I am so happy that St Catherine's was my nursery choice'

'My child's keyworker is fantastic. Really meets my son's individual needs and he's always talking about her'

'Very happy. Mrs Handyside is extremely professional and approachable. My daughter loves her and always feels safe and secure in nursery.'

'The key thing for me as a parent is finding out each time how my daughter has been and what things she's been doing that day. Mrs Leonard is wonderful and very understanding and we both have the same goal – To ensure she develops and continues to be the lovely girl I know her to be. All the team are great and engaging, but in particular Mrs Leonard and Mrs Brockliss'

'We cannot recommend St Catherine's nursery highly enough! It has given my son the structure and challenge he was waiting for in a nurturing environment. The staff are so committed to improving and always make our whole family feel welcome.'

'I am more than happy in how my child has settled in such a short space of time'

Children's comments – Good things about nursery

'We play outside a lot, especially when it's raining, sand pit, teachers, lots of things'

'Playing in the house, it's like a real house but smaller'

'I love swinging on the branches at Forest School and I like giving my teachers a cuddle when I am going home'

'My friends, playing outside, sand and water, painting, and the teachers, especially Mrs Handyside and Mrs Weir.'

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

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The EYFS sets the statutory standards that all early years 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 years 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

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!!

Main Focus for Learning and Development

This term once again we will be focusing on Mathematics. We have a Home Library scheme at nursery (please see below), and we have a number of Mathematics bags with various activities for you to take home and do with your child/children.

Home Library

Our Home Library at nursery has a selection of Story, Maths and Rhyming 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, then please speak with your key-person.

A Story/Maths/Rhyming bag 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.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager