

St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 1 - September 2018

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

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity in “WELCOMING” all the new children and their parents into the nursery.

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 14 weeks, and nursery is open for 16 weeks. Those children accessing the funded hours only will have a one-week holiday, commencing Monday 22nd October, and returning to nursery on Monday 29th October, and will finish for the Christmas holidays on Friday 14th December and return on Monday 7th January 2018.

Please feel free to discuss any of these matters with Mrs Brockliss or Mrs Marriott.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 22nd October – Friday 26th October – Half-term for funded only children

Tuesday 4th December – Nursery Nativity 9.30am (Nursery is closed after the nativity)

Friday 7th December – Christmas party 1pm-4pm (Nursery is closed in the morning)

Wednesday 12th December – Parent’s Evening

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February – Half-term for funded only children

Wednesday 3rd April – Parent’s Evening

Friday 5th April – Last day of Spring term for funded only children

Thursday 11th April – Nursery closes for Easter break – all children

Tuesday 23rd April – Nursery re-opens after Easter break – for all children

Monday 6th May – Bank holiday – Nursery closed

Monday 27th May – Bank holiday – Nursery closed

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May – Half-term for funded only children

Wednesday 17th July – Parent’s Evening

Friday 19th July – Last day of the Summer term for funded only children

Staff Roles

For your information, please take note of the following staff roles below: Helen Brockliss: Nominated Child Protection Officer

Mary Marriott: Nominated Child Protection Officer, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Health and Safety Officer

Jane Handyside: Nominated Child Protection Officer, Equalities Named Coordinator (ENCO)

Louise Leonard: Parental Involvement Coordinator (PICO)

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.

Nursery Facebook Page

Please like our Facebook page (profile picture is Ofsted Outstanding logo) and you will be able to see all the exciting activities your children participate in at nursery.

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. So, this week we will be introducing nursery rhyme of the week to all our new children, which will be sung at singing time, and we encourage parents to sing the nursery rhyme at home with their child.

This week the nursery rhyme will be ‘Five Fat Sausages’ The week commencing 10th September it will be ‘1,2,3,4,5, once I caught a fish alive’ The week commencing 17th September it will be, ‘There were ten in the bed’ The week commencing 24th September it will be ‘Five little speckled frogs’ The week commencing 1st October it will be ‘Five little ducks’

Please follow the link below for the words to all the nursery rhymes of the week and much more!

<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/songs>

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

Word of the Week

Staff will be 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.

w/c 10th September – 'independent'

w/c 17th September – 'enthusiastic'

w/c 24th September – 'concentrating'

w/c 1st October – 'estimate'

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 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.

Starting from 11th September we will have a 'Sound of the Week', for instance the sound of the week for the week commencing 11th September is 's', we ask parents to help their child to bring in something from home beginning with the letter 's' for our sound box.

w/c 10th September – 's'

w/c 17th September – 'a'

w/c 24th September – 't'

w/c 1st October – 'i'

Main Focus for Learning and Development - PSED

This half term we will be focussing on Personal, Social and Emotional area of Learning and Development (PSED), which will involve settling new children into nursery, developing strong child/key person relationships, learning routines and boundaries, and encouraging friendships.

PSED is recognised as one of the building blocks of success in life. It supports children's development by helping them to interact effectively and develop positive attitudes to themselves and others. However, this does not happen in isolation and relies on influential adults such as parents and carers providing them with positive feedback and modelling appropriate behaviour.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), PSED is broken down into three aspects:

Self-confidence and self-awareness Managing feelings and behaviour Making relationships

Self-confidence and self-awareness

This aspect is about how children come to develop confidence in who they are and what they can do and in expressing their own ideas. We know that although many children have several people who care deeply about them all children need to have at least one person who is 'on their side' for them to really thrive. This helps the child feel valued and special and gives them a sense of self-worth. This in turn leads to them being confident with others and knowing when they need support from other people.

Managing Feelings and Behaviour

This aspect is about how children can understand their own feelings and other people's feelings, and how they learn to manage their feelings without letting them spill out at every small annoyance they meet. It also links to how they learn and can follow simple rules which operate in different places such as home and a setting or a play area. Children need the support of adults to help them to understand these complex and often challenging areas.

Making relationships

This aspect is about how young children learn to get along with other children and with adults; how they can see something from somebody else's point of view and take that into account when they play and work with other children. It is also significant in developing friendships. To be able to do these things children need role models – adults who show them how to be with others; how to be kind and to understand why people behave in certain ways – such as saying sorry for hurting another person's feelings. This area of development and learning is one which many adults continue to struggle with since it is far-ranging and complex. Helping children develop personally, socially and emotionally is often challenging but the benefits of this are life-long.

For more information on the EYFS please follow the links below:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/parents/>

<https://www.gov.uk/early-years-foundation-stage>

Family Photographs

As we are concentrating on the "Personal, Social and Emotional" areas of development, which will incorporate settling the children into the nursery routine. We will be discussing "our family, and the members of our family." We would therefore very much appreciate it if the children could bring in "Family" photographs, don't worry if you don't have one of everyone together, individual photographs of members of the family are quite acceptable. Some photographs will be displayed in home corner so please inform your child's keyperson if you wish to have your photographs returned.

Planning - Favourite Story Books

All about me and Traditional Stories are the topics we are focussing on this term, and we thought it would be a lovely idea to combine the two, through asking children to bring in their favourite stories from home to be read at story time. Each week it will be a different key person groups turn for their children to bring their favourite stories into nursery, please see below;

w/c 10th September – Mrs Worsley

w/c 17th September – Mrs Handyside

w/c 24th September – Mrs Leonard

w/c 1st October – Mrs Marriott

w/c 8th October – Mrs Critchley

w/c 15th October – Mrs Weir and Mrs Murphy

Used Children's Magazines

If you have any unwanted children's magazines at home, please bring them into nursery for our book room. Thank you.

Suggestion Box

A parents Suggestion Box is located near the fish tank, please feel free to jot down any ideas you have to improve any aspect of nursery and post it into the box provided! We are in the process of reviewing our setting development plan, so any suggestions will be highly valued and much appreciated!

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.

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 Murphy ~ mrslmurphy@outlook.com

Mrs Critchley ~ mrsklcritchley@outlook.com

Parent app

We have a new parent app which is available to download from our website. The app is now live but is still under maintenance. Please find attached instructions on how to download the app and the username and password required.

Please note: if you have an Apple device and you have already downloaded the app, you need to go to our website and click download parent app again, as apple have completed an update which has affected the app.

Children's absences

It is nursery policy that parent's must inform nursery of when their child will be absent from nursery. Please contact nursery before your child's session starts to report absences, you can either phone nursery, email or through our parent app.

Change 4 Life Campaign

Would you or your family like to be healthier and happier? Would you like loads of ideas, recipes and games to help you do this? Then join Change4Life to help you achieve your goals! To register your family follow this link -

<http://www.nhs.uk/change4life/Pages/change-for-life.aspx>

Healthy packed lunches for early years

A healthy lunch every day will give your child the energy and nutrients they need to grow, develop and learn. Please find attached to this newsletter a practical guide for parents and carers with some ideas of what to include to ensure that your children's packed lunch is healthy, balanced and nutritious. You can also view the guide via our parent app under useful documents.

Outdoor area

We are in the process of developing plans for part of our outdoors, the area at the side of nursery. Please excuse the weeds etc! We are all very excited about the development of the area, which we hope to include a willow dome, sensory footpath, a bridge and tunnel, new bug hotel, and a sheltered area. We will keep you updated! If you have any ideas for our outdoor area please pass them onto a member of staff! We are all hoping for completion in the Autumn term!

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Your Sincerely

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager