

## St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 5 - January 2019

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 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 2019.

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. You can update your contact details via our Parent app.

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 Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February, and returning to nursery on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Half-term for funded only children**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Parent’s Evening**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of Spring term for funded only children**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Nursery closes for Easter break – all children**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Nursery re-opens after Easter break – for all children**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holiday – Nursery closed**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Bank holiday – Nursery closed**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Half-term for funded only children**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Parent’s Evening**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of the Summer term for funded only children**

### **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 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 is ‘o’, we ask parents to help their child to bring in something from home with the sound ‘o’ for our sound box.

w/c 14<sup>th</sup> January – ‘U’

w/c 21<sup>st</sup> January – ‘L’

w/c 28<sup>th</sup> January – ‘F’

w/c 4<sup>th</sup> February – ‘B’

### **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 14<sup>th</sup> January it will be, ‘One, two buckle my shoe’

The w/c 21<sup>st</sup> January it will be ‘Five little monkeys’

The w/c 28<sup>th</sup> January it will be ‘Ten green bottles’

The w/c 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> January – 'tradition'

w/c 14<sup>th</sup> January – 'independent'

w/c 21<sup>st</sup> January – 'attention'

w/c 28<sup>th</sup> January – 'senses'

w/c 4<sup>th</sup> February – 'pretending'

### **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!!

### **Diddy Dribblers and Mini-Maestros**

Just a polite reminder that there is a charge of £2 per session for Diddy Dribblers (Tuesday morning) and Mini-maestros (Thursday morning) for all children.

### **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)

### **Nursery Policies and Procedures**

Parents please make yourself familiar with our new policies and procedures which you are able to view from our website and through our Parent app. 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 'Late Collection and Non-Collection', please find attached a copy of this policy or view the policy through our nursery app.

### **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. Our British Values statement shows how we promote British Values within our setting. In addition, we incorporate the British Values into our medium-term planning.

Please find a copy attached or view from our Parent app, under Nursery policies.

### **Change4Life Campaign**

The 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>

There is a link for the Change4Life website on our app, under useful links.

### **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.

## **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.

## **Suitable Outdoor Clothing**

Please ensure your child has suitable outdoor clothing, including a warm winter coat, gloves, and a woolly hat. Children will not be allowed outdoors without suitable clothing.

Yours sincerely

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager