

St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 7 – March 2019

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Dear Mums, Dads and Carers,

We are having an Easter Extravaganza week, the week commencing 1st April, below are various events we have planned.

Monday 1st April – Cake sale, please bring donations of cakes or biscuits for us to sell during the day and week. Easter Egg Hunt

Tuesday 2nd April – Easter themed “dress up” day, for those children attending on this day.

Wednesday 3rd April – Decorate a hard-boiled egg competition- prizes to be awarded.

Thursday 4th April – Easter Bonnet Parade.

Friday 5th April – 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 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

Friday 5th July - 1pm-3pm – Graduation Party for children leaving for school

Wednesday 17th July – Parent’s Evening

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

Parents Evening

We are holding an informal Parents Evening on Wednesday 3rd April.

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 27th March.

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.

Family Maths Toolkit – Helping children improve their everyday Maths

The Family Maths Toolkit is full of ideas to help parents, families and children aged 13 and under enjoy everyday maths activities together.

Top tips for parents and families:

Be positive about maths. Don't say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hated maths at school"; your child might start to think like that themselves.

Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving maths such as using money, cooking and travelling.

Praise your child for effort rather than talent - this shows them that by working hard they can always improve.

If you struggle with maths yourself - try the free online tool the National Numeracy Challenge to improve your maths level.

<https://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/>

Links are available from our Parent app

Nursery Rhyme of the week

w/c 4th March 'The Grand Ole Duke of York'

w/c 11th March 'There were ten in the bed'

w/c 18th March 'One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Once I caught a fish alive'

w/c 25th March 'Five little Speckled Frogs'

w/c 1st April 'Five little ducks'

w/c 22nd April 'Five warm eggs in an incubator'

Word of the Week

w/c 4th March 'pretending'

w/c 11th March 'thinking'

w/c 18th March 'persisting'

w/c 25th March 'curious'

w/c 1st April 'independent'

w/c 22nd April 'estimate'

Sound of the Week

w/c 4th March 'p'

w/c 11th March 'ck' ie: chick, cricket bat, kite, kitten.

w/c 18th March 'e'

w/c 25th March 'h'

w/c 1st April 'r'

w/c 22nd April 'm'

British Science Week 8th – 17th March

British Science Week, run by the British Science Association 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 “journeys”, and over the week the children will take part in lots of exciting science-based activities. I have added the Early Years Activity pack to useful documents on our parent app, as you may like to join in at home too!

We need the following resource please;

Jam jars with lids

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!

Available on our Parent app under useful documents

Nursery Policies and Procedures

Parents please make yourself familiar with our 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.

IMPORTANT - The policy of the month is a new policy entitled, '**Healthy Packed Lunch**', please open the link below to view the policy which will come into effect on Monday 4th March.

Healthy Packed Lunch

Why do we need a healthy lunch box policy?

The government has placed a duty on schools and nurseries to ensure that every child is healthy. Eating healthily is important because it will help children to:

- Be fitter and healthier now and later in life.
- Learn at faster pace and behave better.
- Provide the energy and nutrients they need to grow, develop and learn.

To make sure that children who bring a lunch from home to eat in nursery have food which is just as healthy and nutritious as food served in nursery and promotes our Smile for Life Award.

Healthy packed lunches – A practical Guide for Parents and Carers is available to view on our parent app under 'Useful Documents'.

A link to the British Dietary Association is also available to view on our Parent App under 'Useful Links' and entitled, 'Let's get cooking at home'. The website is packed full of advice and recipes.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager