

St Catherine's Independent Nursery – Newsletter 4 - December 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are all aware we want to make Christmas as normal as possible for the nursery children this year, so we will be having a nursery nativity and a Christmas party for all of the children.

We will be having our **Nursery Nativity** on **Wednesday 9th December** at 1.15pm, any child that doesn't usually attend nursery on a Wednesday afternoon can be dropped off at nursery at 1.15pm and picked up at 2.30pm. The nativity will be filmed and uploaded onto a private YouTube channel so that only those that have access to it can view it.

In addition, we will be having a **Christmas party** at nursery for all children to attend on **Wednesday 16th December** starting at 1.30pm and finishing at 3.30pm. Each child will have an opportunity to speak to Father Christmas via zoom, and he will have already dropped off some special presents too. 🎅

All nursery fees **must** be paid by close of business on Friday 11th December. If you have any queries or concerns regarding your fees, then please speak to Mrs Brockliss or Mrs Marriott.

Please note: There is a half retainer fee charged to parents whose children attend across the year while the nursery is closed over the Christmas period.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a,

“Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year” 🎄🍷🎄🎅🎄🍷🎄

Christmas Cards

Due to the pandemic please can children refrain from bringing Christmas cards into nursery for each other this year

Band Aid 🎵🎸🎤

The pre-recorded film of the Leyland Christmas light switch on is now available to view on Leyland Town Team's Facebook page and South Ribble Borough

Council's Facebook page, the Band Aid song is at the end of the video 😊 All of the nursery children and the staff team were amazing!

Christmas Food Hampers

Huge thanks to all of those parents who kindly donate unwanted food items for the Christmas Food Hampers, they have all now been delivered. We had so many donations each family received a huge Christmas hamper, and they were all very thankful and delighted too. 😊

Parents First Aid Awareness Course

Centaur Training services in Leyland are providing a First Aid awareness course for parents, grandparents, and carers specifically for babies, children and family.

After just 3 hours you will leave knowing that should an accident happen, you will have the confidence to carry out life saving techniques.

What you will learn:

- (CPR) Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation for all the family
- Choking for all the family
- Recovery position for all the family
- Burns and scalds
- Meningitis

For more information contact Centaur Training on 01772 433080

Email: info@centaurtraining.co.uk

Please follow the link below for a downloadable free app which provides first aid advice at your fingertips. The First Aid app is also available through our parent app by going to useful links on the 'more' tab and scroll down to 'Free Mobile First Aid app'.

<https://www.sja.org.uk/sja/first-aid-advice/free-mobile-first-aid-app.aspx>

Text Emergency 999 🚑

For those parents/carers that are not aware, it is possible to alert emergency services to your whereabouts even in situations where you are unable to talk out loud. EmergencySMS is similar to the police's Silent Solution – which allows callers to inform emergency call handlers they require police assistance without making a sound. But, the EmergencySMS service allows people to silently request urgent assistance from police, as well as paramedics, the fire brigade and the coastguard.

Here's how to do it: Firstly, you must register your mobile phone number with emergency services before you can request help via text.

1. Send the word 'register' in an SMS message to 999
2. You will then receive SMS messages about the service
3. When you have read these SMS messages reply by sending 'yes' in an SMS message to 999
4. You will receive a SMS message telling you that your mobile phone is registered or if there is a problem with your registration.

Your phone number MUST be registered before you can use this service.

Read more by visiting: <http://metro.co.uk/2017/05/26/how-to-silently-alert-police-or-an-ambulance-in-an-emergency-6664488/?ito=cbshare>

Or through our app in the useful links part of the app and scroll down to 'How to silently alert police or ambulance service'

Stocking fillers – Children's books 📖📖📖📖📖

Children's books are a great stocking filler and I thought I would share with you the Great Book Guide 2020. The books are recommended by BookTrust's panel of experts, including bookshop owners, parent bloggers and librarians, as well as BookTrust's own in-house team.

Please click on the link below, if you are receiving this newsletter via email to view recommended books for your child's age group.

[Great Books Guide: 100 best new books for children | BookTrust](#)

or find it on our parent app under 'Useful Links - Literacy'.

Parents Evening

As we are unable to hold a parent's evening this term, if you have anything that you would like to discuss with your child's key worker, then please drop them an email or phone nursery to arrange a telephone appointment. Children's reports will be available to view on their online learning journal in the last week of term. If you have any problems in accessing your child's online learning journal, please contact nursery and we will resolve any issues.

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 'Complaints and Compliments', please view the policy through our nursery app.

Watch out for Dangerous Toys this Christmas

The number of dangerous toys sold online to unsuspecting families is on the increase - so it's important to be extra cautious when buying Christmas presents this year.

Worryingly, if you buy from a third party seller via one of the well-known online marketplaces, toys might not meet UK safety standards.

Online marketplaces are simply offering a shop window to sellers around the world and aren't legally required to check if a toy is safe before allowing it to be sold.

Dangers can include:

- Magnets so strong they can burn through a child's gut if swallowed
- Long cords that can strangle a child
- Dangerous levels of chemicals
- Small parts that can choke or suffocate
- Easy access to button batteries that can get stuck in a child's food pipe, cause internal bleeding and even death.

Lots of families will be looking for bargains online this year due to shop closures and financial pressures caused by Covid-19, so we're sharing tips to help you buy toys safely.

If you are able to, then **buy direct** via the websites of well-known brand names.

If you are buying from an online marketplace, **enter a reputable brand name** when you search for the toy you want, to be sure it's safe.

How to spot if a toy could be unsafe:

- Remember, toys aren't checked for safety before they're sold by an online marketplace

- If the price seems too good to be true, it probably is - it costs manufacturers money to make toys safe. Try to find something you can be more sure about
- Babies and toddlers put nearly everything in their mouths, which is why toys not designed for this age group need to state 'not suitable for under 3s' or have a warning symbol. Under 3s may choke on small parts or loose hair, so be wary of toys which feature small or loose parts and have no age warning.
- If the listing includes contradictory information about the toy - for example, it's described as a toddler's toy, but elsewhere it says it's not suitable for under 2s - think again
- Look out for suspicious reviews. If they look like they're copied from a toy's leaflet, sound very similar or were written on the same day, they could be fake
- Find out where the company is based. It's a legal requirement to have a UK or EU address to sell toys here. If they're based outside the UK or EU, the toys may not comply with UK safety standards
- The CE mark or Lion Mark show toys have been made to approved standards. However, some unscrupulous companies can fake them - so if you already have concerns, don't rely on these alone.--

Shop safely and have a very happy Christmas!

More information on accident prevention, including, 'How to be a safety savvy shopper at Christmas' is available on our parent app under, 'Useful Links' - 'Accident Prevention'.

Outdoor hats

Please can you ensure that your child has a winter hat for playing outdoors. If it is a cold day, they will not be allowed to play outdoors without appropriate outdoor wear.

Nursery Rhyme of the Week

Throughout December, the nursery children will be practicing their nativity songs. **Please find a Nativity song sheet on our Parent app under useful documents, to help your child learn the songs at home.** We will resume Nursery Rhyme of the week in January.

Word of the week

w/c 30th November 'interest'

w/c 7th December 'enthusiastic'

w/c 14th December 'festive'

w/c 4th January 'tradition'

Sound of the Week

w/c 30th November 'm'

w/c 7th December 'd'

w/c 14th December 'g'

w/c 4th January 'o'

Sound of the week - Phonics

A parents guide on how to teach children phonics is available on our app, please see, 'Useful Links' - 'what is Phonics, and 'Phonics play' provides teaching resources.

Yours sincerely

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager