

## **St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 5 – January 2021**

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

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Dear parents 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 2021.

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.

### **COVID-19 – Risk Assessment**

Our risk assessment has been reviewed and updated, and now all parents and anyone picking up or dropping off a child at nursery must wear a face mask. In addition, please can I remind parents to respect social distancing measures when picking up / dropping off their child at nursery. Please pass this message on to whomever picks up and / or drops off your child. As I am sure that you are all aware that the new Covid-19 variant is 70% more transmissible than the first strain, and these extra measures must be adhered to in order to help stop the spread of this virus. I thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

### **COVID-19 – Test results and Self-Isolation Period**

If a person in the child's household tests positive for COVID-19 our policy is that the child can only return to nursery once the 14 days isolation period has been completed. The self-isolation period starts on the day that the positive result has been received. The government have continued to make changes regarding COVID-19 guidance on the self-isolating period, firstly at 7 days, then up to 14 days and now down to 10 days. Our policy has remained the same from the very beginning at 14 days. I feel the safest way to protect our children, their families and the nursery staff team and their families too is to continue to withhold our

policy, which will remain the same throughout this pandemic. I understand this will be an inconvenience for some families, but my priority is keeping our vulnerable loved ones as safe as possible. I once again thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

If your child has been tested for COVID-19 and the results come back negative, please complete the 'COVID-19 Negative Test Result' form. If your child displays symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19 please complete the, 'Tested Positive for COVID-19 or Displaying Symptoms' form. Both forms can be found on our parent app – click the 'More' tab bottom right of the home screen and then scroll down to, 'COVID-19 Test Result forms'.

Please can parents also contact nursery if you yourself have tested positive for COVID-19 and complete an absence reporting form. Which can also be found by clicking the 'More' tab and scrolling down.

### **Petition - Prioritise teachers, school and childcare staff for Covid-19 vaccination**

Advice from the JCVI on the priority groups for a Covid-19 vaccine does not include school/childcare workers. This petition calls for these workers, who cannot distance or use PPE, to be kept safe at work by being put on the vaccine priority list when such a list is adopted into government policy.

Inclusion of school and childcare staff on the priority list should also:

- \* provide more protection for children and their families
- \* reduce the chance of settings being closed for 2 weeks and working parents having to take time off work
- \* ensure continuity of education for children
- \* allow schools to return to normality faster, having a positive impact on children's mental health
- \* reduce the chance of NHS workers having to stay at home with children who are isolating due to closures

A link will be sent via our parent app if you choose to sign this petition. I thank in advance for your support.

### **Additional Contacts on Parent app**

Parents can add additional contacts on the parent app, for instance family members or friends that pick up / drop off your child so that they can also receive all the information and messages sent by nursery. Just click the 'More' tab and scroll down to, 'Additional Contacts' and then I will send them an invite.

## **Main Focus for Learning and Development**

This half term we will be focusing on Mathematics, Numbers and Shape, Space and Measures. Please take a look on our Parent app, under 'Useful Links' and 'Useful Documents' – 'Mathematics' which has an abundance of simple maths activities for you to do with your child at home, to help them develop their maths skills.

## **Parental involvement in nursery planning**

This half term we are focusing on 'Winter' and 'Dark and light'. We would like parents to take part in our Winter themed topic, and we suggest Winter walks in the park where you can talk and think about winter themed words, i.e; frost, ice, snow, crisp, fresh. A large percentage of children at nursery are particularly interested in playing in the dark with torches, so we are focussing on 'Light and Dark' this half term too. We suggest that parents talk to their children about light and dark and ask simple questions, such as; When is it light? When is it dark? How can we make it light or dark? Talk about different light sources i.e. torch, candle, lamp, sun, moon, and stars. Please add comments to your child's online learning journey about any learning that takes place. Our Medium-term planning is available to view on our Parent app.

## **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.

Please have a look on our parent app for more information on Letters and Sounds – under 'Useful Links' – 'Literacy' – 'What is Phonics'.

Each week we have a 'Sound of the Week', for instance the sound of the week for the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January is 'o', we would normally ask parents to bring in something from home beginning with each sound of the week, but due to COVID-19 we cannot allow children to bring in any items from home. Therefore, we ask parents to help their child to find items in their home beginning with the letter 'o' this week. Please see below for subsequent weeks thereafter.

w/c 11<sup>th</sup> January – 'U' for instance, 'umbrella or underpants' not 'unicorn'

w/c 18<sup>th</sup> January – 'L'

w/c 25<sup>th</sup> January – 'F'

w/c 1<sup>st</sup> February – 'B'

### **New Home Learning Tab**

There is a new tab on our parent app which can be found on the home screen, it isn't live yet as I am still working on it. Once it is live, I will let you all know. It will collate all of our home learning activities that are already on our parent app, making them easier for you to access 😊. I can only add PDFs to this tab, so all of the home learning activities on the internet can still be accessed via 'Useful Links'. They are under the learning and development areas of the EYFS and 'Home Learning Ideas'.

### **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 11<sup>th</sup> January it will be, 'One, two buckle my shoe'

The w/c 18<sup>th</sup> January it will be 'Five little monkeys'

The w/c 25<sup>th</sup> January it will be 'Ten green bottles'

The w/c 1<sup>st</sup> February it will be 'Five Fat Sausages'

Please follow this link for all the song sheets

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

Alternatively take a look at our Parent app under 'Useful Links' – 'Communication and Language' – 'Nursery Rhymes'.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> January – ‘tradition’

w/c 11<sup>th</sup> January – ‘independent’

w/c 18<sup>th</sup> January – ‘attention’

w/c 25<sup>th</sup> January – ‘senses’

w/c 1<sup>st</sup> February – ‘pretending’

Teaching children new words is so important, please take a look on our Parent app under ‘Useful Documents’ – ‘Communication and Language’ – ‘Teaching Children New Words’.

### **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, Health and Safety Officer

**Emma Rawlinson** - Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

**Jane Handyside:** Equalities Named Coordinator (ENCO), Designated Safeguarding Officer

**Louise Leonard:** Parental Involvement Coordinator (PICO)

### **Nursery Policies and Procedures**

Please make yourself familiar with our policies and procedures which you can 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 ‘Infection Control’, please view the policy through our parent app.

## **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 'Healthy Eating'.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Helen Brockliss  
Nursery Manager