

St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 8 – April 2021

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Dear parents and carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Easter!

Summer Term

We have some hatching chick eggs arriving at nursery in May, and also a very exciting magical experience planned for the children too! All will be revealed very soon!! 😊

Nursery Planning

We will be focusing on Spring and New Life next half term, and we would like parents to take part in our planning process. We suggest Spring walks in the park where you can talk and think about Spring themed words, i.e; frogs, chicks, blossom, growth, birth, eggs, hatch, warm, daffodils, tulips, sun. Whilst you are walking to nursery with your child look out for New Life and signs of Spring.

Nursery Policies and Procedures

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.

The policy of the month is 'Safeguarding and Child Protection', please find attached a copy of this policy or view the policy through our nursery app.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

All information and documents on our parent app relating to 'Safeguarding and Child Protection' have now been placed together. Under 'Useful Links' there is lots of safeguarding advice, including accident prevention, road

safety, online safety, how to spot the warning signs of abuse (Parent's Protect), and how to report abuse. In addition, under 'Useful Documents' there is lots of tips on how to set up devices so they are safe for children to use.

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.

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 **19th April is 'p'**, 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 26th April – 'n'

w/c 3rd May – 'ck' (sock, clock, kite, cat, sack)

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;

w/c 19th April – ‘Five Little Ducks’

w/c 26th April – ‘Five Little Speckled Frogs’

w/c 3rd May – ‘Five Warm Eggs in an Incubator’

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 19th April – estimate

w/c 26th April – spectacular

w/c 3rd May - astounding

Teaching Children New Words

A good vocabulary (knowing and understanding words) is so important for children when they are learning to talk; it has an impact in lots of different ways. Please have a look in our app under Useful Documents – section ‘Communication and language development’, a very informative factsheet on how parents can support their child in learning new words.

Sunhats

As the warm weather is approaching, please can you ensure your child has a sunhat for playing outdoors. On hot sunny days the children will not be allowed outdoors without a sunhat.

Sunscreen

Nursery has a supply of Nivea factor 50 sunscreen, but if you prefer to use a different brand please ensure you bring a bottle to keep at nursery with your child’s name on it.

Kind regards

Helen Brockliss

Nursery Manager