

## St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 4 – December 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

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

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

### **Covid Risk Assessment**

Due to the current situation with the new variant arriving in the UK, and schools in the area having outbreaks of the virus, I am really sad to say that parent's will have to continue to drop off their children and pick them up at the front door. The risk assessment will continually be reviewed, and I hope that we can allow parents into nursery very soon. I thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

### **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'.

### **Parent Partnership**

If you have anything that you would like to discuss with your child's key worker, then please use the messaging service on our Blossom app or phone nursery to arrange an appointment.

### **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'.

### **Nursery Rhyme of the Week**

Throughout December, the nursery children will continue to sing their nativity songs. Please find a Nativity song sheet on our Parent app under useful documents. We will resume Nursery Rhyme of the week in January.

### **Word of the week**

w/c 29<sup>th</sup> November 'interest'

w/c 6<sup>th</sup> December 'enthusiastic'

w/c 13<sup>th</sup> December 'festive'

w/c 3<sup>d</sup> January 'tradition'

### **Sound of the Week**

w/c 29<sup>th</sup> November 'm'

w/c 6<sup>th</sup> December 'd'

w/c 13<sup>th</sup> December 'g'

w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> January 'o'

**Sound of the week - Phonics**

A parent's 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