St Catherine's Independent Nursery - Newsletter 5 – January 2022

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 2022.

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 Contingency Framework

Our Contingency Framework has been updated inline with the new Government guidelines – please see the excerpt below:

'Any person displaying symptoms must not return to nursery until they have completed the required isolation period of 10 days and/or received a negative coronavirus test, in line with government guidelines. It is possible to end self-isolation after 7 days, following 2 negative LFD tests taken 24 hours apart. The first LFD test should not be taken before the sixth day. Children with temperatures cannot return until they have been 24 hours fever free, without the need of medication to assist, in line with PH DfE guidelines.'

Please note that the first day of either testing positive with a PCR or LFD or starting with a symptom of Covid is classed as day zero of 7/10 days. Your child can return to nursery if testing negative on a LFD test on day 8, after completing the full 7 days of isolation, if they are still testing positive on day 10 they are still able to return to nursery on day 11.

Covid-19 Outbreak

We have had 6 confirmed cases of Covid over the last 10-day period of both staff and children and this is referred to as a COVID-19 outbreak. St Catherine's Independent Nursery will take further advice from PHE. We have taken the following actions:

- A more intense deep clean
- Restrictions of people entering the nursery building
- Isolation of identified children or staff members

We would appreciate it if all children could take a lateral flow test just to be safe. Obviously, this is not compulsory, but we would really appreciate your co-operation. All staff are testing daily at the moment.

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 full Contingency Framework is available to view on our Parent connect app – under 'Useful Documents – Covid'

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 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 4th 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 24th January – 'U' for instance, 'umbrella or underpants' not 'unicorn'
w/c 31st January – 'L'

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 24th January it will be, 'One, two buckle my shoe'
The w/c 31st January it will be 'Five little monkeys'

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 24th January – 'independent'

w/c 31st January – 'attention'

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'.

Nursery Jumpers

We have been let down by a few suppliers in sending samples out, and I hope to find a suitable supplier as soon as possible. I will let you know when we have our nursery jumpers back in stock.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Helen Brockliss
Nursery Manager