



## Newsletter 8 – April 2022

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

**Registered Charity Number:-** 1152421

**Ofsted Number –** EY488889

**Telephone:** 01772 456304

**Email -** info@stcatherinesnursery.co.uk

**Website -** www.stcatherinesnursery.co.uk

Dear parents and carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Easter, and to thank you for all of your support for our Easter Extravaganza week!

### **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.

### **New Useful Link on Parent app – My First Five Years**

I have added a new link onto our parentapp entitled, 'My First Five Years'. The app has been developed for parents by leading early years experts to help parents give their children the best foundation for lifelong learning using the power of play. For more information you can also find 'My First Five Years' on Instagram too.

### **Hot lunches**

Children who are attending nursery w/c 4<sup>th</sup> April will require a packed lunch, and **all children will require a packed lunch on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April**. As the

school is closed during this period.

### **Covid risk assessment**

As mentioned in March's newsletter, from w/c 18th April, parents are welcome into the nursery to drop/pick up their child. Please be mindful that this is a change of routine, and some children will struggle with this. Parents can also choose to drop / pick up their child at the door. When dropping off / picking up your child, please could we politely ask parents to be considerate of the nursery routine, for example if its name time or story time, please keep the noise level to a minimum so to not disturb the children. If children contract Covid they must, as with any other infectious disease, stay at home for 5 days from the onset of the virus. This will be reviewed as the government update their guidance.

### **Children's signing in board**

We have a children's signing in board as you enter nursery, please allow your child to sign their own name on the children's signing in board, and please don't rub away any letters or comment on letters that you believe are not formed correctly, instead provide positive praise on the marks they have made or the letters they have formed correctly. At this stage in their development, it is about the marks they have made and not the letters they have formed 😊. Please take a look at our parent app under Useful Documents – Literacy – Mark Making and pre-writing skills.

### **Home Library**

We are very pleased to announce that our Home Library will be re-opened at nursery after the Easter break! We have a vast selection of Story, Math's and Rhyming bags, which include books, puppets, games, recipes, and lots more exciting ideas for you to interact with your child. Each bag also contains an information card with suggestions of how to use the items.

As some of the items inside the bags are quite expensive, we are asking for a deposit of £10.00, which will be refunded when your child leaves nursery, if no loss or damage has occurred.

If you are interested in taking part in the home library, then please speak with your key-person.

A Story/Math's/Rhyming bag will be yours for a period of one week, after this time please return them to the nursery. All the components of the bags will be checked to ensure that they are complete before they are issued.

Please ensure that a member of staff has verified that the bags are complete

on their return otherwise you will be held financially responsible for any missing components.

### **Parents Questionnaires**

Thank you to all of our parents who have completed our questionnaires, if you haven't already completed on, I have extended the deadline of both questionnaires (New parent and main questionnaire) until the end of April 😊

### **Snack menu**

We are changing our snack menu and we would love parents to provide some healthy suggestions! (please use our Suggestion Box on our parent app – see 'Surveys') The snack menu will also be discussed with the children during their council meeting after the Easter holidays 😊

### **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

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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> April – 'n'

w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> April – 'Five Little Ducks'

w/c 25<sup>th</sup> April – 'Five Little Speckled Frogs'

w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> April – estimate

w/c 25<sup>th</sup> April – incubator

w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> 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