



Nursery Curriculum Newsletter



January 2019

The child
begins to
perceive the
world not only
through his
eyes but also
through his
speech

- Lev Vygotsky

Dear Parents,

Welcome to school and the spring term. We hope you will find the following information useful in understanding how much fun your child will have at our school whilst learning and playing.

What are we learning this term?

Communication and language / speaking and listening

We are on a mission to widen each child's vocabulary by introducing them to lots and lots of new words. The children will also learn to recite new rhymes, using Makaton actions (a form of sign language). The children will be encouraged to speak clearly and with purpose using 'Wow' moments as a starting point. 'Wow' moment sheets are available in the letter rack in the cloakroom. Please feel free to take one as required and return to Nursery so your child may have a chance to share their experiences. This activity will help your child gain confidence as well as developing their communication skills.

You can help by - introducing new words at home and looking at our 'word wall' display to practice using the words we have already introduced.

Literacy / English

We continue to use 'Letters and sounds, Phase 1 phonics' to develop the children's listening skills and awareness of sounds. This term we will be concentrating on developing an increased awareness of rhyme, identifying words that rhyme and producing rhyming strings. For example, 'A **pig** in a **wig** was doing a **jig**.'

After half term we will concentrate on identifying alliteration – hearing words which begin with the same sound. For example – '**Sally sees seven snowmen**'. We will also be learning some letter sounds (phoneme) and their shape when writing them (grapheme).

You can help by - Helping them to learn to write their first name.

Mathematical development

We will be teaching the children to recite numbers in the correct order to 10, then 20. The children will learn to accurately count objects in random arrangements by saying one number name for each item. They will learn to recognise numerals to 10 and correctly match the numeral to the amount.

You can help by - 'Count, count, count' Everything and anything wherever you are!

Nursery school dinners

Children may order a hot school dinner, a school sandwich or bring a healthy packed lunch from home. Please **do not send** drinks from home. Drinks are available throughout the day and everyone receives a drink at lunchtime.

Dinners are ordered on a daily basis. Please make sure you tell the staff each morning what your choice is for lunch, even if your choice is 'my own packed lunch'. This is because we have two sittings over lunch. Thank you. The menu is printed on the weekly newsletter for you to plan in advance.

Unfortunately, Nursery school dinners are not universally free and currently cost £1.75. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals please speak to the office staff who can provide you with the relevant forms.

Please place any monies, letters or reply slips in the black letter box on the Nursery kitchen wall or take them straight to the school office. Please place money in a sealed envelope and write the child's name, class and what the money is for on the front. Please note that the office staff deal with all paperwork, money and administrative enquiries so if you have any queries please speak to them directly. Thank you.

Voluntary Contribution –

We ask for £3.00 per term. This helps us to buy the ingredients to make fresh play dough and also to buy the ingredients needed for baking activities. Please place your donation in an envelope and pop it in the black letter box on the Nursery kitchen wall.

Thank you.

Physical, Social, Emotional Development (PSED)

Each session the children gather together, as a small group with their key worker. We call this time 'Snack and Chat'. During this session the children learn the important social skills they need to become effective learners. They learn to listen to others and take turns to speak. They learn to share knowledge and experiences, ask questions and learn from others. We also teach the children about the days of the week and the passing of the seasons. We share a free healthy snack and offer a carton of milk or glass of water during this session.

You can help by – Teaching your child to be polite; to say 'please' and 'thank you' and to respect others.

Physical Development

In Nursery the children have access to the outdoors daily. We do not have a set 'playtime', the children may, (and do!) access the outdoors as they wish. As such please make sure that they are dressed appropriately for the weather. We provide wellingtons for general use so children do not need to bring their own to play in. (They may need their own wellingtons to travel to and from Nursery depending on your travel arrangements) Children do not need a PE kit whilst in Nursery.

You can help by - Teaching your child to take off and put on their own coat, gloves, shoes, jumpers or cardigans by themselves.

Creative development

Most young children love creative activities and as such we always have many available; painting, playdough, model making, sand, water, singing, dancing, role play and dressing up to name a few. This is the area where children learn to concentrate on a task, to persevere and problem solve, to take chances in their experiences and to learn to cooperate with others. For many children this maybe the first time they have been without a grown up 'telling them what to do'. It can be daunting but extremely liberating and creates confident, independent learners who can think for themselves and take advantage of all school has to offer.

You can help by - Valuing their creations and talking to them about their school day. Choose a time when you can give them your full attention. Straight after Nursery is not a good time and you may get a shrug. Bath time is a good time to chat. Don't worry if your child does not want to chat, some children like to make the most of their new found independence! Showing an interest is the important point and one day they will begin to share their new experiences with you.

Understanding of the world

We hope the children will learn all about the season 'Winter' through first hand experiences. We hope they will investigate winter weather, winter clothing, animals and plant behaviour in winter. Outdoors the children will make ice lanterns, make bird feeders to hang in our trees and *hopefully* play in the snow, sledging and making snowmen. We will introduce children to the knowledge that in some parts of the world it is always winter and look at some of the animals which inhabit these places. We will contrast this by learning the story 'Dear Zoo' (Rod Campbell) and looking at the animals featured in the story. We will be discussing pets. Which animals make good pets, which are unsuitable and which pets the children have at home.

You can help by- Sending us a photograph of your child with his/her pet. If you do not have a paper copy you can email a photograph titled FAO Mrs Hindmarch ???'s pet to enquiries@stocksbridge-nur.sheffield.sch.uk



Nursery Library

Staff will help children to change their library book each **Monday** and **Thursday**

Please place their book bag, containing the library book and reading record book (yellow book) on their peg so they can find it later. Thank you.

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss,



Nursery Team's Top 5 Tips.....

- 1- Buy mittens not gloves and Velcro or zip fastenings rather than buttons and laces. They are MUCH easier for little ones to do independently.
- 2- Keep in touch- If you change your email, buy a new phone or change address please tell us ASAP. We need to be able to contact you immediately should your child become ill.
- 3- Name EVERYTHING including shoes. There are over 50 pairs of footwear during our week!
- 4- We have several children at Nursery with the same first name, so please use the initial of your surname. Items are often 'lost', but usually reappear. If you are looking for a lost item please check your child's drawer and the cloakroom. Lost hairclips etc are pinned to the board in the cloakroom. Alternatively, if you find an item please hand it to a member of staff or return directly to the owner. It's also a good idea to check your child is wearing the right sweatshirt. Children often pick up the wrong one by mistake.
- 5- Read the school newsletter which is sent via email every Friday- especially the 'Nursery News' section. This is our main method of regular communication and is full of information about the weeks ahead.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wednesday is the day we choose for special events - visitors, trips, school photographs etc as this is the only day of the week that all children attend Nursery at some point.

Each Wednesday the children enjoy either a forest school or baking activity directed by an adult on a rota basis. If your child is unable to take part in any activity due to allergies please inform us asap.

The children will spend a maximum of 3 hours outdoors during forest school activities, (dependent on the weather) so please dress appropriately



Adverse weather

We work closely with all the other schools in the area and where possible a joint decision is made regarding school closures during adverse weather.

If school is unable to open in the morning an announcement will be made on Radio Sheffield and we will attempt to send you a text/ and or email.

If we have to close early we will attempt to send you a text or email.

If you live or work some distance from school please make a contingency plan for your child to be collected should this be necessary and inform the Nursery staff.

Please make sure we have your current text/email details and update us when necessary.

We will not close Nursery until all the children have been safely collected.

Diary Dates - Spring 2019

- **Thurs 24th Jan** - Mrs Taylor teaching in Nursery.
- **Tues 5th Feb** - Stay and play 2pm – 3pm
- **Thurs 7th Feb** - Stay and play 2pm – 3pm
(Parents of children in Butterfly group – please choose just one 'stay and play' session to attend, either Tues or Thurs to ease congestion. Thank you)
- **Fri 15th Feb** – Non uniform/fancy dress day £1.
- **Fri 15th Feb** – Nursery closes at 3pm for half term holiday.
- **Mon 25th Feb** – Nursery re- opens 8.45am
- **Thurs 7th March** – world book day
- **Tues 19th March** – parents evening 3.25 – 4.45pm
- **Thurs 28th March** – parents evening 3.25 – 6.45pm
- **Fri 29th March** - Non uniform/fancy dress day £1.
- **Fri 29th March** – Mums or grandmas invited into Nursery at 2.30pm.
- **Fri 29th March** Nursery closes for Easter holidays at 3pm.
- **Mon 15th April** Nursery reopens at 8.45am.
- **Tues 16th April** - School places are offered to you direct from Sheffield City Council. A place in Nursery does not automatically give you a place in school. The applications deadline has now passed. If you did not apply for a school place please contact **The Reception Admissions Team on (0114) 273 5766 or by email at ed-admissions@sheffield.gov.uk**

Meet the team – Spring 2019



Headteacher
Mrs Townsend



Safeguarding Officer
Ms Redgate



Special Educational Needs Coordinator FS Leader
Mrs Priest

Nursery staff – Spring 2019



Mrs Hindmarch
Nursery teacher every day except Wednesdays Key worker for Ladybird and Busy Bee children.



Mrs Taylor
Nursery teacher every Wednesday.



Mrs Parkes
L3 Teaching Assistant. Mrs Parkes is in Nursery every day. Key worker for Butterfly children.



Mrs Schofield
L2 Teaching Assistant. Mrs Schofield is in Nursery every day. She supervises dinnertime and outdoor play.



Miss Cowley
L2 Teaching Assistant. Miss Cowley is in Nursery every day. She supports the youngest children in Nursery.



Mrs Bembrick
L1 Teaching Assistant. Mrs Bembrick is in Nursery every afternoon. She supports 1-1 in Nursery.



Important To keep your 30 hours free childcare place you need to reapply every 3 months directly to HMRC. School/nursery is not involved in this part of the process and places may be lost if you fail to reapply.

If you are unsure or would like further advice please ask at the school office.

