



Welcome to the first Nursery newsletter of this year. The children are settling in well and getting to know each other. In these first few weeks the children spend a lot of time switching between friendships, playing alongside each other, learning the nursery routines and begin to get used to what is expected of them. It is a huge step for these young children but we feel they are really coping well so far.

**This half term, our topic is 'All about me and Autumn Festivals'.**

During this term we want to find out as much as we can about each other. What we like to do and play with, all about our families and people who are close to us, about ourselves, what we look like and how we are the same or different as our friends. We will also be investigating the autumn season changes and celebrating some Autumn/Winter festivals such as Diwali, Hanukah and Christmas.

**Prime areas:**

**Personal, Social and Emotional:**

- Getting to know each other, learning each other's names, likes and dislikes.
- Introducing routines
- Talking about our family festivals celebrated
- Hygiene routines
- Turn taking and sharing

**Physical development:**

- Putting on own coats and shoes
- Exploring the nursery environment and learning how to move around it safely
- Climbing and exploring the nursery equipment
- Exploring different construction toys
- Manipulative play experiences

**Communication and Language:**

- Communicate needs to adults
- Joining in repeated refrains of stories and rhymes
- Using small world toys to communicate ideas
- Songs and rhymes about ourselves
- Responding to questions and instructions

## **Specific Areas:**

### **Literacy:**

- Which letter my name begins with.
- Looking at books related to 'ourselves', emotions and feelings
- Making marks through play, in sand, salt, rice and on paper
- Self registration, finding their own name.
- Gross and Fine motor activities such as threading, tweezers, pegs boards and making and using play dough.
- Handling books carefully & holding up the correct way
- Introduce letter and sound activities

### **Mathematics:**

- Recognising and finding significant numbers
- Counting letters in name
- Daily counting of children
- Measuring children's heights
- Sequencing and simple number puzzles
- Counting songs and number rhymes
- Shape activities

### **Expressive Arts and Design:**

- "My first nursery painting"
- Autumn activities, conker rolling, leaf printing
- Expressing ideas through imaginative corner, outside play and role play
- Listening to music and playing musical instruments
- Dancing and action songs
- Making art and crafts for festivals celebrated

### **Understanding the World:**

- Talking about families, friends, what we do at home, where do we live?
- Looks at changes in the seasons and nature
- Exploring the Spinney and Forest school sessions
- Autumn/Winter festivals
- Cause and Effect of toys & ICT

## **Observations and Planning for the Children's Progression**

In the Nursery both the teachers and the nursery nurses observe your children in different contexts. For example, they will be observed in both focus activities led by the adults and activities which have been set up by the team that they choose to go to independently. The children are unaware they are being observed and by making observations the teacher can plan the next steps of learning for your child.

The Nursery team all incorporate child-initiated activities in order to personalise learning for your child and get them excited about coming to school. For example if your child enjoys playing with trains they might do practical activities such as counting with trains. We make detailed observations on your child each term and then individual activities are set up for them to support their learning. After the first few weeks when your child has settled in you will receive a question sheet so we can find out how you think your child is settling in and what your child's interest are at home. Your comments along with their observations can help us to set up activities that will motivate your child and help towards their future development.

## **Help and support from the parents**

The Nursery team would like parents/carers to share their expertise and knowledge of their children by sharing their nursery experience. The nursery encourages parents/carers to come in for a session when they can. A weekly rota will be displayed within the nursery foyer once the children are settled. When coming to help for a session, parents may be asked to play a game with a group of children, support play in the nursery and help the nursery team.

## **School Trips**

Educational visits are an important aspect of the Rhodes Avenue Curriculum. School visits and trips provide the opportunity to enrich learning outside of the classroom and inspire learning back at school. We aim to take the children on as many school trips as possible however we recognise this can become costly. We have decided this year to set a maximum limit on the amount we ask you to pay for trips over the whole year to £30. The school will make every effort to keep the cost of the educational visits to a minimal by using pupil transport or by visiting free exhibitions.

Our Nursery trips are to be confirmed but a trip to the park, local library and walk around the local environment will be organised soon and you will be asked to help out if you can.

## **Key Person**

Your child has been allocated a Key person who will support your child throughout their year in the nursery. They will make observations of your child and feed back to you on how they are developing and what their main strengths and key areas of development. Each child will in turn become a 'Focus Child' where they will be observed by their key persons and all members of the team and then your key persons will invite you to parents evening to chat to you about how your child is getting on. You are able to view these observations by logging into your child's 'Look@me' profile. If you have not received your login code please ask at the main office.

## **Home Learning**

The nursery sends out the occasional home learning activities which will support the topic or learning objective that half term. Check in your 'Yellow book bags' regularly for further information about these activities.

## **Important Autumn term dates for your diaries:**

Half term	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct - Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct
INSET day	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October
Individual photos	7 <sup>th</sup> November
Children in Need	17 <sup>th</sup> November – Nursery Cake sale Dressing up day
Parent consultations	15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> November - TBA
Christmas Performance	tbc
Visit to garden centre/cafe	tbc
Christmas party/Chicken shed Show	14 <sup>th</sup> December
End of term	21 <sup>st</sup> December

## Other Information

### School book bags

Please purchase a yellow on line via the school website and collect it from the school office for £4. They will help us to distribute newsletters and children's art work more efficiently. Please make sure your child brings them into school every day.

### Change of clothes bags

Children will also need a change of clothes bag that we keep in the nursery. These need to be labelled and contain spare trousers, t-shirts and underwear. We ask you to check on these regularly. The school PE bags can be used for this purpose too and are also available via the school website.

### Wellington Boots

Please provide your child with a pair of welling boots so we can visit the spinney for 'Forest school' sessions throughout the winter. These can be kept in school.

### Cold Weather clothes

As the colder weather is approaching we would remind you that the children do have the opportunity to go outside into the garden as much as possible and it does get very cold out there. Therefore please make sure your child has a warm coat or jacket to put on and that you encourage them to put it on all by themselves. Velcro and poppers are the best for this age group we have found. Please remember to also top up your change of clothes bags with appropriate items. **Please label all outside coats.**

### Sickness

From time to time your child is bound to pick up coughs and colds and we ask you to please keep them at home if they are really under the weather especially if you have given them Calpol. We have a sickness policy which is outlined in the Nursery booklet and a copy of which is on our notice board in the foyer. Please remember to ring and inform us if your child is poorly and will be missing a nursery session. Please keep your child home for at least 48 hours if they have been sick or had a temperature. The Nursery telephone number is **0208 826 1894**. There is always someone in the nursery between 8.30am and 4pm.

### Days away from the Nursery

If you are planning to take your child out of nursery for a day, a holiday or have a medical appointment organised please inform the Nursery and the Main office as soon as possible.

### Pick up

If someone different from the regular people, is collecting your child from nursery, we ask you to write that persons name on the whiteboard inside the nursery cloakroom. This is extremely important as we are unable to let your child go with anyone the nursery team are not familiar with.

### Birthdays

We will celebrate your child's birthday in the nursery. We welcome parents/carers to join us and come into the nursery at 2.30pm. Many children like to bring something to share with their friends; homemade cakes or biscuits but no sweets thank you. If your child has a specific allergy that we are aware of please provide your child with an alternative treat to have at this time.

### **Nursery Library**

You are welcome to use the library in the nursery foyer to take a couple of books home each week. Please return them regularly so everyone can enjoy them.

### **BBC Children in Need Appeal 2017**

The children are encouraged to come into the nursery dressed up and to bring a teddy.

Parents will also be asked to make cakes and help sell them at the cake sale at the end of the day. The date is November 17<sup>th</sup>. More details to follow.

### **RAPSA**

RAPSA do a lot of fantastic fund raising for the school throughout the year and inform parents about events that are going on and to coordinate cake sales and coffee mornings. The best way to get to know parents at the school is to join RAPSA.

We are looking for two helpful and willing parents to become 'Nursery Reps' for the year. They will help to organise social events and pass on information to everyone, collect together a class phone number/email list and organise coffee mornings.

### **Healthy Schools**

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School one piece of fresh fruit or vegetable are available each day for you child. As your children are with us all day you might like to bring in some additional fruit or vegetables each week to share later on in the day too.

Water and milk will always be available during the nursery session. Please provide 'Soya or Oat milk' and a closed cup if you child has an allergy to Cow's milk.

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We looking forward to working with you,

Sally, Andrea, Donna and Adriana

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