**Nursery Class Newsletter**

**August 2017**

**Welcome Back**

The Nursery team would like to welcome back all of our returning children and families and give a warm welcome to all our new starts. We are holding an Open Evening on Thursday 14th September from 7pm-8pm where you can meet all the staff and your child’s Key Worker.

**Staffing**

We are delighted to announce that Miss Sammi Tasker has joined our team at Menstrie. She will be in Nursery on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and will share the responsibility of the Cloud Group with Mrs Stanners. Mrs Stanners will be in Nursery Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We also have Mrs Lucy Docherty, a trainee Early Years Practitioner who will be in Nursery each day and who will attend Clacks Academy on a Friday afternoon. Mrs Docherty will be shadowing Miss Wright at the Rainbow Group and working with the other groups within the Nursery. Miss Wright will be in Nursery each day from 9am-3pm. Ms Williamson has changed her working week and will now only be in Nursery Tuesday-Friday. The main point of contact for the Moon group at 8:30am on a Monday morning is Miss McEwan and from 9:00am-3:00pm is Mrs Docherty. Mrs Nimmo will be continuing to carry out the PoPP (parenting programme) on a Thursday and will not be in Nursery on this day. On a Thursday morning at 8:30am, the main point of contact will be Miss McEwan and from 9:00am-3:00pm it will be Mrs Docherty. Ms Russell will continue to work each day in the Nursery. Miss McEwan is continuing her role as Acting Senior Early Years Practitioner.

**Session Times**

The morning session has two door opening times: 8:30am-8:40am and again at 9:00am- 9:10am. Can we ask that parents/carers try and keep to the door opening times as staff are busy settling and engaging with the children. The door will open again at 11:30am-11:40am for pick-up.

The afternoon session starts at 12:20pm-12:30pm and has two door opening times at the end of the day: 2:50pm-3:00pm and 3:20pm-3:30pm.

If your child attends Nursery for a full day and is dropped off between 8:30am-8:40am then they must be collected at 2:50pm. If your child is dropped off between 9:00am-9:10am then your child must be collected at 3:20pm (or earlier if you prefer.)

If you have purchased additional hours for your child then they can attend Nursery from 8:30am-3:30pm.

**Flourishing Communities**

During this term we will be focusing on the meaning of ‘safe’ and ‘healthy’ with the children. This is the beginning of various workshops which will be ongoing throughout the school year and will cover the meanings of:

* Safe
* Healthy
* Achieving
* Nurtured
* Active
* Respected
* Responsible
* Included

**Peep**

Peep (peers early education partnership) is a universal programme. The Peep Programme aims to help parents and carers to:

\* enhance the quality of the Home Learning Environment, by valuing and extending everyday learning opportunities

\* develop secure attachment relationships with their babies and children

\* help improve children’s communication and language, social and emotional development, early literacy and maths, and health and physical development.

Ms Russell has recently been trained in the Peep programme. This will be offered to parents/carers and their families within the Nursery. The programme will run within the Nursery on a Wednesday afternoon from 2pm-3pm. The first session will take place on Wednesday 6th September. You are welcome to join in with this session if your child does not attend on this day. If you would like an application form, please ask Ms Russell or Miss McEwan.

**Lunch Boxes**

Just a small reminder that if your child stays for lunch, could you please ensure that an ice-pack is in your child’s lunch box. If you choose to give your child grapes as part of their lunch could you please cut them in half as full grapes are a choking hazard. Thank you.

**Play on Pedals**

Miss McEwan and Ms Williamson have recently completed a training programme ‘Play on Pedals.’ This programme focuses on helping children to learn to use a balance bike and make the smooth transition to using a two wheeled pedal bike. The Nursery already have their own supply of balance bikes which we will be using with the pre-school children when we start delivering the programme. At this time we unfortunately do not have a supply of two wheeled pedal bikes but will be looking into this soon. We hope to start the programme week beginning 11th September. Letters will be sent out to pre-school children.

**E-Journals**

Clackmannanshire Council have provided each Early Years Practitioner with an iPad. Your children’s learning will become available online during this term instead of using the black books for Learning Journals. Unfortunately we are having a few issues with the Wi-Fi connection but when it is up and running we will inform parents as this is when staff will be using the E-Journals. Each child will have their own E-Journal which will have significant observations made from their key-worker or another member of staff within the Nursery. You will be able to view your child’s E-Journal online. Can we please ask that each parent/carer fills out their own home e-mail address on the ‘E-Journal’ sheet which can be found at the desk where they sign-in. Each time an observation is made, you will receive and e-mail informing you of this. The address is: [**http://Menstrie.yourlearningjournals.co.uk**](http://Menstrie.yourlearningjournals.co.uk)

**Wellcomm Screening**

As part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, our main focus in Menstrie Primary is literacy and language. As part of this we will assess children’s language skills and carry out various language activities in order to close the attainment gap. If you have any questions please ask Miss Wright.

**Activity Money**

Activity money is £2.50 per child per week. This can be paid weekly, monthly or termly. Activity money is used to go towards snack, outings, entertainers, Christmas presents, graduation and parties for you child. Can we ask that you make a note on the sign-in sheet on your child’s group register of the amount which you have paid. Thank you.

**Dates for your Diary**

* Monday 4th September: Individual school photographs
* Week beginning Monday 11th September: Maths Week
* Thursday 14th September: Open Evening 7pm-8pm in Nursery
* Week beginning Monday 9th October: October Holidays