**Important Dates**

**Parent Conversations- Weeks begin. 12 and 19 Nov**

**Families’ Community Discussion- 22 Nov 0845 and 1300**

**Book Week Scotland- begins 19 Nov and runs across this week. We will focus on a Scottish Author and Kirsty’s Dad Nick has kindly agreed to read for us in Scots’ tongue. Our lovely friends at the Gaelic School will come on 23 November AM and spend time with us, sharing their learning.**

**Smartie tubes filled with either 1ps or 5ps to be returned to nursery by Wed 28 Nov. Empty Smartie tube will be given out by Key Persons.**

**Money Week- begins 3 Dec- during this week the children will develop an understanding of money and the cost of things, as they make items to sell at Enterprise Day.**

**Christmas Enterprise Day, Swap Shop and Pop up Café-**

**Fri 7 December AM/ PM**

**Carols around the Christmas Tree- Mon 17 December**

**Christmas Party- Tues 18 December**

**NURSERY WILL CLOSE AT 1430 ON THURSDAY 20 DEC AND WILL RE-OPEN ON 7 JAN ‘19 AT 0830.**

**Housekeeping**

**Please put old clothing/ footwear on your children when they come to nursery. We can guarantee that they will get dirty and muddy as they learn. So it is probably best to presume that you will pick them up filthy! This will avoid children getting upset at the anticipation of getting into trouble. Thank you for your understanding.**

**Don’t sit on a worry…**

Just a reminder to all parents/carers that we are here for you as much as we are here for the children. We will always do our very best to help you with anything we can and, if we don’t know, we will find out from one of our partner colleagues. In order to do this, you need to let us know how we can help. Similarly, we would be disappointed to think that you leave our building at any time, anxious or concerned about something without sharing this. The spirit of the building is one of open door and transparency.

**Nursery Family Room**

We are really keen to ensure that all parents/ carers are aware of our Family Room and to work towards it being used as ‘a place to be’. We are keen to know what you would like to see in it to facilitate greater use. If we know that families wish to use it at times during the week, we can schedule meetings around these times.

**Health and Safety**

If you come to collect your children during session times i.e. after 0830 and before 1140 and similarly, after 1250 and before 1600, please do not enter the playroom. Please speak to clerical who will arrange for your child to be brought to you. This will keep everyone safe. Thank you for your understanding.

Please also ensure that you are mindful of closing the nursery front garden gate as you come and go from the building. This is particularly important given that our children en route to Nature Nursery are gathering within the gazebo.

Can we remind parents that when your children are handed over to you at the end of the nursery session, that they are then back in your care. Please ensure that they are in your line of sight at all times. We would ask you to ensure that your child does not run around within the Welcome Area with a raised voice as this disturbs the rest of the building.

Just to highlight to you that we regularly risk assess the nursery environment- inside and out and are recognized by GCC H&S as being very competent in this regard as communicated at recent audit.

Therefore, the nursery is understood to be a safe environment. Within this safe context, we will facilitate opportunities for children to learn to safely manage their own risk. Some examples of this are as follows-

We use glasses to drink from; have vases to display our flowers; allow access to child friendly scissors; allow children to climb trees and balance on logs in the garden; use real tools, etc. Yes, accidents will happen on occasion but that is part of learning. After all, we cannot stop the cars on the roads and live life using only plastic- just in case. We are duty bound to teach our children about how to manage risk. Thank you for your understanding.

Competition Time

We invite you to encourage your child to create a drawing that will remind everyone to close the nursery gate on arrival and when leaving the building. Please pass your suggestions to your child’s Key Person by Fri 16 November. Thank you

**Thank you**

Thank you to everyone who supported the children in their Autumn leaf pick and enjoy hot chocolate and pancakes. Sponsor monies are continuing to be handed in and we will share our total with you in due course.

**Wyndford Nursery**

**Newsletter**

**November/ December 2018**

**Nursery Contact Numbers-**

**0141 945 1366**

[**headteacher@wyndford-nursery.glasgow.sch.uk**](mailto:headteacher@wyndford-nursery.glasgow.sch.uk)

**Nursery mobile-07384242982**

***Please use this App to access this newsletter in your first language.***

**SOS…Nursery Gardening Group**

**We would really appreciate some help from a few parents/ carers to help us develop our nursery garden as an interesting space to support children learning outdoors. This will involve light DIY to create things from recycled materials and some gardening- we are keen to establish our own allotment. Our hope would be to have a focused day once a month where we come together around specific tasks which have been identified. Please speak with Lorna and Kelsey to lend your support.**

**Well done to Twinkle and her family who won the Cake raffle. We raised £43. It is our intention to ask the children what they think we should buy with this money to help them learn.**

**Thank you for your support in helping your child to come in disguise as a nursery rhyme or book character…some really great ideas!**

**Supporting Children’s Learning**

We are really interested in being more thoughtful about **how we can use the context of children’s family and community as the main stay around which we create our curriculum with children.** Thank you to everyone who has helped us on our way with this by completing our ‘Helping Hands’ sheets by writing down any skills and interests which you have as a family and which you would be willing to share with us in support of the children’s learning.

As many of you know, we adopt a **child led approach to supporting** **learning.** This involves **educators gathering significant observations of children and joining these together to create stories of learning** which your child’s Key Person will share with you across nursery and home, so that you can add your observations and help us to understand your child in different contexts. This narrative form of assessment is accessible and inclusive.

We also recognise that children don’t know what they don’t know, and so it is important too, to **balance our child led approach with opportunities for more adult intended learning.** This happens at focused group times across the week where the Key Person uses her observations to forward plan for her group. In addition to this, we support children to develop an understanding of learning for sustainability across each term; as well as offering opportunities to learn about cultural festivals and changing seasons.

Educators **will share a sense of the play interests and learning opportunities within each zone, each week**. Please take time to have a look at the **blue cards within the Welcome Area**.

Money Week

We are hoping to support children’s to begin to understand the need for financial planning. To do this, we would really appreciate it if you would help them to collect either 1ps or 5ps in a Smartie Tube and bring in to nursery. Each key group will then consider what they will buy to help them make goods for their stall on Christmas Enterprise Day.

It is also a good opportunity to support their awareness of number by counting in 2s and 5s.

Learning Outdoors

As you are aware, Nature Nursery features strongly within our nursery principles. i.e. the importance for children’s development of having opportunities to learn outdoors. We continue to hear strong messages from research about the impact of greenspaces on positive mental wellbeing.

As we enter the colder months of the year, we will continue to learn outdoors with the children unless in severe, unsafe weather.

**Myth busting…you don’t catch a cold from being outdoors…there is more likelihood that children will become unwell over the winter from not getting enough fresh air and time away from the germs that breed and spread indoors.**

**Therefore, please ensure that your child is suitably dressed as they will be going out. Better to have more layers on that can be taken off, than too few. Please pay particular attention to the thickness of their socks…if their head, feet and hands are toasty then all will be well.**

**Please ensure that your child has a full change of clothes (incl. pants and socks) inside a named plastic bag in their nursery blue cloth peg bag.**

**Our ‘Talking and Thinking Tree’**

We are really keen to keep an open and on- going conversation with our families and with the community around a range of topics which will help all of us to grow in understanding of each other as a Nursery Community.

**The question we are posing for Nov/ Dec is –**

**What do you think of children and childhood today?**

**Share a positive childhood memory of your own…**

Please take a luggage label from the basket and add your thoughts to it and hang on the tree. Thank you.

**Please also add any suggestions for other questions or things to consider as a community that you think might be useful. Thank you.**

**Playful Challenge…**

We would be delighted to engage some of our parents and carers in ‘unlocking your inner child’ (which never leaves us) and seeing what you can make with a brown box i.e. it’s not a box, it’s a …

We hope to create a small gallery of innovation provoking the children’s curiosity to be inspired.

Please play with us.

**Thank you …**

To the Scottish Dental Group who has kindly agreed to sponsor our sustainable greenhouse made of upcycled materials. This is part of their current focus towards a more sustainable environment and were delighted with our proposal for funding in order to help the children to understand how we can put rubbish to good use! Our community friends have agreed to help us build this with the children.

Family Engagement

We are very excited about a few developments which have been created as a result of people within the nursery community listening to each other and thinking about what small actions we can take together that will make a difference. These include the following-

Suggestions wall- Please add any questions, suggestions, or things to consider on the poster across from the clerical window as you come in the front door. This will help us to be responsive as a community.

Learning for sustainability challenges-please take time to have a look at our Term 1 Family Fun Learning Together ideas focused around supporting the children to understand what action we can take to look after our world. We have displayed our learning around this on the playroom wall above the computers.

‘What matters to you?’ community forum-We are delighted that members of the nursery community have committed to giving their time once a month to support discussion around wider community issues. The first meeting will take place on Thurs 22 Nov. Please see the posters on the nursery gates

Families’ support group- We are delighted that a group of our families have decided to start a support group for other parents/ carers to share conversation and experiences about being a parent and family to a child with additional learning needs. This group will be facilitated by families- but of course you can call upon the support of the nursery at any time to access partner agency contacts as you would find helpful. First meeting Tues 4 Dec at 0900.

‘Lickety Spit’ Porridge and Play- We are very privileged to have received £1000 to enable us to access two sessions of porridge and play for 40 families. We are really keen to celebrate the rich diversity within the community of Wyndford- with stories, songs and food bringing us altogether. We are hoping to submit a joint funding bid with Lickety Spit in due course, to bring Lickety Leap (a longer term project) to our community.

Intergenerational project-We are so pleased to have developed a relationship with the residents and staff at Rannoch House Elderly Care Home and have the opportunity to share in an intergenerational project with them each week. A group of children from the nursery have been invited to visit Rannoch House each Monday afternoon to engage with an identified group of residents. Our first visit on Mon 12 Nov was an amazing success and we noted the ease with which children and senior citizens very quickly found a rhythm with each other- painting, learning each other’s names and making biscuits. We were really touched by the very close looking of faces when the other wasn’t looking and already we can see connections blossoming- in terms of who was drawn to whom.

**Welcome to our new staff…**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our three new educators who will join our team as permanent members of staff-

Cheryl McKnight, Karen Brett and Jean Lowe

These individuals have been recruited centrally for us during the recent city wide campaign.

We are also awaiting three temporary educators. To step in for Nicola who is on mat leave and for Elaine who is supporting learning across the Early Level in P1.

We have also advertised for a Team Leader and will be interviewing shortly. I have asked a parent to join the panel to support our decision making.

Yippee! We also have a new clerical, Louise Johnston, who will join us full time once recruitment checks have been completed.