**Important Dates**

**Parent Conversations- Weeks begin.18th & 25th Feb**

**Welcome to nursery session for new families-27th Feb AM/PM**

**Learning Through Play Evening-6th Mar 6-8pm**

**Families’ Support Group- Next meeting 5th Feb at 9am**

**Residents’ Forum- Next meeting Thurs 28th Feb at 1pm Family Room**

**Chinese New Year ‘The Year of the Pig’-5th Feb**

**February mid-term holiday- Mon 11th & Tues 12th Feb**

**In- service- Wed 13th Feb- Nursery closed**

**Children working within Pop up Café-Fri 15th Feb**

**World Book Day-7th Mar (more info to follow)**

**Global Play Day-6th Feb**

**Internet Safety – 5th & 6th Feb (Sign up with your keyworker) 9am & 1pm**

**World Day of Water-22nd Mar**

**Daffodil Tea-22nd Mar AM & PM**

**Children’s Easter Picnic and Egg Hunt-27th Mar PM 28th AM**

**29 March- Nursery closes for Spring holiday**

**Spring Holiday- Mon 1 April- Fri 12 April (incl)**

**Nursery re- opens- Mon 15 April**

**Good Friday 19 April and Easter Monday 22 April- Nursery closed.**

**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. In addition, please be vigilant and ensure that only yourself and the child you are collecting leave the nursery building.

Please do not be tempted to hold the door open for others to enter the nursery. Each person entering the building should be given access only by a member of staff who is sure that they know who they are. This will keep everyone safe.

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 1 February. Thank you

Fundraising- Term 2

Suggestion of a Sponsored Walk within Botanic Gardens with set of clues to find. More details to follow.

Thank you

A very big thank you to those parents/ carers who keep us in mind by handing in bits and bobs that you hear of and that you know that we will appreciate. We are very grateful.

**Wyndford Nursery Newsletter**

**January/ February 2019**

**Nursery Contact Numbers-**

**0141 945 1366**

**headteacher@wyndford-nursery.glasgow.sch.uk**

 **Nursery mobile-07384242982**

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

***Question- We are really keen to ensure that we continue to respond to feedback. Does the current format/ content of nursery newsletters work for you? (appreciating that there is a lot of information to share and that we need to make this accessible to each family in their first language).***

***If not, what is your alternative suggestion? (Please share on the ‘I wonder’ wall. Thank you***

**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.

**Expansion 2020 Update**

Communication from Glasgow City Council suggests at this stage that we will be moving towards offering each child 30hrs of Early Learning and Childcare around Aug ’19. I will keep you posted as soon as I have more information to share. We do have a sheet of frequently asked questions which have been developed following the piloting of the 30 hrs within other settings. Please speak with Mary Pat if you have any questions. It would be our intention, as always, to work in collaboration with you to ensure that the way forward does not cut across the quality we have worked to achieve across the past few years.

**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 recognize 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 their 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**.

‘Stay and Play’ join in opportunities

We are hoping to take a new approach this year to stay and play sessions to maximize the opportunity for you to learn through play alongside your child, in a way perhaps that can extend to home/ community. Across term 2, these will include invitations around-

*Numeracy/ Luscious Language/Digital Literacy/Nature Nursery*

‘Play on Pedals’

We are delighted to be able to offer an opportunity for some children to participate in this program across Term 2. This will support the development of skills in relation to balance and coordination as well as managing risk and safety and bicycle maintenance.

More information from Cheryl and Lorraine

‘Bags to go home’

We have developed bags to support the development of children’s literacy, numeracy, motor skills. Across nursery and home. These will be distributed to part time group AM this term and part time PM groups next term. Please take time to give us feedback on these so that we can continue to develop the content. Thank you.

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 Jan/ Feb is –**

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

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

**What is your child’s favourite toy? Did they request this or was it chosen for them?**

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 and see what we can collaborate to achieve.

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-

‘I wonder’ 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 2 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 next meeting will take place 22.3.19

Key suggestions emerging from discussion at recent meeting include-

* *Families looking to be more involved in taking children out into the community to learn.*
* *Families looking to be more engaged in learning happening within nursery via our Twitter feed and Glowblog.*
* *Planning with families to support a piece of focused activity to be visible within community.*
* *Offering support to families to nurture wellness via KITBAG resource.*
* *To create a box of ‘difficult questions’ (that everyone contributes to) asked by children, to give us time as parents/ carers o consider how we might respond (before we are in the moment)*
* *Opportunity to come together to prepare food. (6 week Family Meal Course, Maryhill Hub, Feb ’19)*

These actions will be supported to be developed over the course of Term 2, prior to the next meeting.

\*\*Residents’ Association Forum- Next Meeting Thurs 28 Feb at 1pm in Nursery Family Room.\*\*

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. Next Meeting Tues 5 Feb at 0900. Please speak to Mary Pat if your child attends PM and you would like to join the discussion.

Male friendly audit- A very big thank you to our Dads, Stepdads, Grandfathers and male ‘friends of Wyndford Nursery’ who have supported us with feedback to help us

Families’ Shopping Trip to TESCO - Do you fancy finding cheaper alternatives that are healthier and still appeal to children?

Come along to nursery on – 21st February at 9 a.m

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. We would ask you to support this by helping your child to bring in a picture of a Grandparent/ Grandparent figure, to nursery for our display. We would also appreciate it if we could borrow an item of clothing/ accessory from Grandparent to help us dress our willow Grandparent within Welcome Area- Thank