‘The Fridge Page’ from Wyndford Nursery… Please use this App to access this newsletter in your first language

October ’19 

Welcome to our new style of newsletter which will be distributed on a monthly basis.

You can stick it on the fridge for ease of reference…

**Need to know…**

* We are very encouraged to share with you that our investment in development of high- quality practice within Wyndford Nursery has been recognised by Care Inspectorate during their recent unannounced inspection. As I continue to share with the staff team- it should not matter when outside bodies come to scrutinise our practice, because we know we are living an honest life within building, focused on ensuring high quality for our children and families and for the educator team. Our investment in educators’ growth over time, was recognised as continuing to have significant impact, given the capacity of the team to tell our story of improvement change and their clear understanding of their individual responsibility within that.

They evaluated us as ‘Excellent’ with comments to reflect ‘sector leading practice’. We will share the report with you when it is published. Whilst we are very clear in Wyndford Nursery that we continue to develop our practice in response to the children and families in our care, as opposed to simply pleasing policy makers and scrutiny bodies; this recognition re-affirms to us that we should continue to focus on what matters.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to speak with Care Inspectorate during their visit and/ or completed the questionnaires. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current staff team, most sincerely, for their commitment and belief. It is a privilege to work within such an inspirational group of individuals.

* It’ s approaching that time of year again when the families of children due to transition to P1 will be asked to enrol in school. This process is encouraged to be carried out on-line. <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18007>

NB. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO THIS UNTIL THE START OF NOVEMBER 2019 AS THE FORM YOU REQUIRE HAS NOT YET BEEN UPLOADED.

(You can, however, request paper copy of the form should you have no access to internet).

This site will also give you information on PLACING REQUESTS, BEST START GRANTS, ‘SCHOOL FULL’ PROCEDURE, FIND MY CATCHMENT SCHOOLS.

PLEASE HELP YOURSELF AT THIS EARLY STAGE PRIOR TO THEN, BY ENSURING THAT YOU KNOW WHICH SCHOOLS ARE THE CATCHMENT SCHOLS FOR YOUR POSTCODE (YOU CAN DO THIS USING THE LINK ABOVE. You will find the name of both the ‘denominational’ school and the ‘non- denominational’ school in your catchment. It is important that you are clear of your responsibility for making the choice for your child to attend one school over the other, including being able to explain WHY?

* There are still some children who do not have appropriate footwear or spare set of clothing for use in nursery. Please speak to Mary Pat if you would appreciate some support with this.
* Important dates-

Fri 11 Oct- In-service Day- Nursery Closed

Mon 14 Oct- Fri 18 Oct- Nursery closed for term- time children.

26 Oct- 10am to 12noon- Community Coffee Morning, Wyndford Nursery.

Week begin 4 Nov- P1 School Enrolment begins for school entry August 2020.

Weeks begin. 11th and 18th Nov- Opportunity for Parent/ Carer conversations with your child’s Key Persons

29 Nov-Early warning reminder of the additional in-service day this year

**In conversation…**

* It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you our new educators- some of whom I had the privilege to interview across the summer period. Being part of the interview process has been so important out of respect for, and recognition of, the strength of the existing staff team, to ensure that we are inviting like- minded educators to join us- who understand their role in current times.

**Alan Gillies,** joins us as a child development officer and brings exciting experience in relation to Learning for Sustainability- which will help us in working towards getting a Green Flag for the nursery; **Yiota Vlachaki and Jordan Lyden**, join us as Support for Learning Workers- very important positions that we have never had before; **Nicola Beaton and Arlene Taggart**, will join us as child development officers, later in October. Both we, and Kelsey Campbell are delighted to learn that she will return to Wyndford as a permanent member of staff following her maternity leave. Kelsey is a high skilled and values- led member of our team.

* Residents’ Discussion Forum- Just to highlight this resource available to you on the last Thursday of every month at 1pm, Family Room. We are very privileged that one family within the nursery plays a key role

within the community Residents’ Association. They have gifted their time each month to support individuals in addressing neighbourhood/ personal worries or concerns that are beyond the ‘reach’ of our expertise within the nursery. Please pop in to meet with Eleanor or Nick to chat through things within a confidential conversation, enabling them to support you in moving things forward.

* Food bank- We are delighted to share with you that Louise, our clerical assistant, has been successful in her efforts to secure funding for us to enable us to run over very own foodbank. The funding was gifted to us by GHA / Cube and we feel very grateful to have been listened to. We will share more information with you in due course in relation to how this will work, ensuring that it ensure both equity and equality.
* Families’ Discussion Group-(Date TBC Groupcall text message will follow) This is a support group for families run by families focused on additional support needs.
* Upcycling rail- The introduction of our uniform upcycling rail by Lynda from May- September, has proven to be very successful indeed. We will continue with this initiative moving forward. For now, we will move this to storage to enable us to replace it with a facility to upcycle ordinary clothing for ch’n and families. However, please do not hesitate to ask Lynda or Mary Pat if you are needing to access the uniform store, prior to May time. It will not be a problem. In terms of the ordinary clothing, please feel free to help yourself if you see anything which would fit a family member.
* P1 Leavers’ Tea Party- We were delighted to welcome back our children and families who have recently oved on to primary school for a tea party within the nursery. As always, we were keen to use this as an opportunity to learn how we can make the nursery better. We used the following questions to provoke conversation-

*Families- What one piece of advice would you give to families coming to the nursery?*

*Imagine if…what could the nursery look like?*

*Children- What is your best memory of nursery?*

*If you could change one thing about the nursery what would it be?*

Please take time to have a look at the Family Room wall where you will see some pictures, alongside their responses which they feel will help the current group of children and families.

* Early warning- please do not go out and spend money on buying your child Halloween costumes. We take a child -friendly approach to celebrating the season of Autumn/ Harvest. This does not involve potentially scary masks, goblins and ghouls…

We would ask you to respect this request to ensure that we do not unsettle children who have only recently begun to settle into nursery.

Instead, we will invite your child to come ‘in disguise’ as a nursery rhyme character or a character from a storybook. We would encourage you not to buy this, but instead to spend some time with your child finding things around the house that they could use to ‘make do’ a costume. For example, a cushion tied around them with an over- sized shirt worn over it and they become ‘Humpty Dumpty’; pyjamas, a candle and a big sock pulled on to their head as a night cap and they become ‘Wee Willie Winkie’, four pairs of old tights stuffed with newspaper attached around your child’s waist and they instantly become ‘Incy Wincy Spider’, etc

**Learning through play…**

* You will be aware that we are currently carrying out an ‘Experiment’ within the playroom environment…always trying to push ourselves to understand better, our children, as individuals and as learners and, importantly, who they need us to be as educators for them…We are using our observations to support professional discussion, as we continue to strive to make the ‘Wyndford Offer’ the best it can be for children and families. As part of this, we are keen to invite you to learn alongside us, by engaging in playful challenges. For example, the recent ‘Clay Challenge’ where we asked some families to use clay to make one thing that they would give to their child now that they felt they couldn’t be without, in 30 years’ time. (when they are adults) Thank you to those who have contributed their ideas so far…we look forward to seeing the thoughts of everyone else in due course.
* We continue to explore the use of stories, as a narrative form of assessment, as this approach fits well with our child centred principles. Please remember to ask your child’s Key Persons about the stories that they are currently writing/ have been written by other colleagues, about your child’s learning. We are very keen that you are contributing to these as part of the on- going, collaborative assessment around your child.
* Please speak to your child’s Key Persons about our recent development, SEE SAW App, enabling access for child’s family of their electronic journal. This is a secure platform accessed only by nursery and the family of the individual child. We ‘tested’ this across last session with a couple of families and have been really delighted with their feedback. This is something which we feel all children and families should benefit from and was, in fact, commented upon during our recent inspection. Moving forward, there should be no reason for families not to know how their child is progressing in their development and learning.
* ‘Helping hands at Wyndford Nursery’- please return these ASAP so we can use your skills/ interests to create learning opportunities for our children. Thank you.
* We are very keen to ensure that our fundraising initiatives encourage families to engage with children during nursery time, focused on learning through play. Term 1’s Fundraising will take the form of a ‘Sponsored Leaf Pick’ with your child and will allow us to focus on the necessary skills of-

*Number awareness, Sorting and Grouping and Information handling* through play. We will share more information with you in due course.