

# St Helen's Nursery Class



**August/September 2023**



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Helen's Nursery,  
It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to begin the new term at St Helen's Nursery. I hope you all had a lovely summer, despite the weather, and enjoyed some precious family time.

This newsletter contains lots of important information for the year ahead so make sure you add the dates listed at the back of the newsletter to your diaries.

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Wan to our nursery family as a permanent Support Worker. Mrs Wan has thoroughly enjoyed her first week at St Helen's and has been getting to know the children and their wonderful personalities. We are awaiting a final Support Worker to make our staffing complete and we hope to have an update on this soon.

The children have been busy settling into the nursery - becoming familiar with the routines, building relationships with their Key workers and exploring the resources. We have been developing our awareness of feelings and learning to recognise different emotions. The children have also been eager to explore their senses with lots of sensory play. Water play is proving very popular with filling and emptying containers, splashing, creating bubbles, and observing cause and effect. The children have been keen to make playdough, adding the ingredients and mixing them together. We are off to a great start and are excited for the year ahead!

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss. You can use the contact details listed on this newsletter or catch me at the gate most mornings.

Kindest regards,

Katrina Fitzpatrick DHT

[nlfitzpatrickk@northlan.org.uk](mailto:nlfitzpatrickk@northlan.org.uk)

## NURSERY DETAILS

Session time	8.45am—2.45pm
Head Teacher	Mrs Liz Kelly
Depute Head Teacher	Mrs Katrina Fitzpatrick
Principal Teacher	Mrs Siobhan Ferguson Miss Clare Gillooly
Early Learning and Childcare Keyworkers:	Mrs Nicola Langford (Lead) Mrs Lorraine Bell Mrs Fionnuala Clelland Mrs Julie Stewart Mrs Paula Forsyth Ms Lorraine Daily
Early Learning and Childcare Support Workers:	Mrs Audrey Semple Mrs Wai Lan Wan

## IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2023-2024



Each year the school and nursery engages in self-evaluation and takes into account National priorities in order to define our own focus points for improvement. Our nursery class priority this session is:

**By June 2024 all learners in the nursery will benefit from quality learning and teaching experiences achieved through embedding robust planning practices, valid assessment procedures and rigorous quality assurance measures.**

We are doing lots of work as a staff team to develop and strengthen our practices and we have invested in Online Learning Journals to involve you more in your child's learning.

We are keen to tell you more about these on 7th September so please come along.

### SETTLING IN



The transition to nursery can be an emotional time for some children and their families. In St Helen's it is our priority to ensure that all children feel safe, nurtured and secure in our setting. Every child is different and this can take longer for some children.

We will always endeavour to keep you updated on how your child is doing in nursery however we do appreciate that our time is limited at drop off and pick up. We have arranged for Key Workers to give you an update on how your child is settling into nursery life **week beginning 9th October**.

Please note that this is not a parents' evening—it is an opportunity to speak to your child's Key worker about how your child is doing and ask any questions (away from their little listening ears). Key Workers can either give you a call or have a quick chat in the nursery at the start or end of the day. They will arrange this with you in advance.

### COME AND LEARN ABOUT NURSERY



Parents and carers are warmly invited along to the nursery on **Thursday 7th September at 6.30pm**. This is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the nursery day to day routines, have a wander around the nursery whilst there are no little ones around, and of course the launch of Online Learning Journals. Please enter through the main school door. We look forward to seeing you.

### KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



The safety of the children at St Helen's is our utmost priority. We are continuously risk assessing and reviewing our practices to ensure we can provide high quality provision whilst ensuring children are safe. There are a number of ways you can help with this:

- Please ensure you close and secure the gates to the school and the nursery grounds when entering and exiting. This is especially important if you are collecting your child mid-session as the school children may be accessing the playground at this time. Parents and carers should not enter the P1 playground.
- Please access the nursery via the Rose Street gates or the Lomond gates. Do not enter via the car park gates with children as there are vehicles coming and going throughout the day and this poses a risk.
- It may be tempting to park in the school car park, especially if it is bad weather. However we kindly ask that you refrain from this. The car park can get very busy with staff, visitors and school transport, especially at drop off and pick up time. To secure the health and safety of all, we want to keep traffic to a minimum.

We appreciate your support with this.

### NURSERY FUND



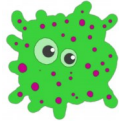
We are very fortunate at St Helen's Nursery for the amazing support our parents and families give. Through your contributions, we are able to enhance our service and experiences for the children. The monies collected go directly to benefit the children by allowing us to provide Christmas and birthday gifts for each child; Easter eggs for each child; ingredients to cook/bake and make resources such as playdough; decorations and party treats for celebrations such as Halloween, and our annual Fun Days. Little brown envelopes are available on the parent notice board in the cloakroom should you wish to and are in a position to donate. We thank you very much for your continued support with this.

### NURSERY PHOTOGRAPHS



You should have received an email informing you that Chris McIntyre Photography will be coming in to take photographs of the children in the school and nursery. Nursery children will have their photographs taken on **Thursday 31st August**, so plenty of time to get practicing those smiles!

## INFECTION CONTROL



*These days we are all well versed on spotting signs of infection. Unfortunately our youngest children are still prone to picking up the usual childhood bugs and the nursery is required to follow strict guidance from Care Inspectorate on the control and reporting of any outbreaks (2 or more cases).*

*Some bugs and illnesses require an exclusion period from nursery—a full list can be found on the Health Protection Scotland or Care Inspectorate websites. However I wanted to draw your attention specifically to the following:*

- Unexplained rashes—children should not attend nursery until assessed by a doctor or pharmacist.*
- Vomiting/diarrhoea. If your child experiences either of these, they should not attend nursery until 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea.*
- Fever/high temperature— if your child has a fever or high temperature (37.8 or higher) they must not attend nursery until they are 48 hours free of a high temperature without the use of medication to regulate this.*

*Even though your child may appear to be feeling better, it is during this 48-hour window when they are most infectious.*

*If your child is ill, they must not attend childcare and if your child becomes unwell whilst in our care, we will phone you to request that you collect them. Please tell us if your child has been ill whilst they are away from nursery and if you're not sure, please phone us before you bring your child.*

*We appreciate your support with this in helping to protect our children and limit the spread of infection.*

## PLPs



*You will soon receive your child's Personal Learning Plan (PLP) home. This is your child's written plan which sets out how we can best meet their needs.*

*In St Helen's we recognise the importance of involving the children and of course – you - their Parents and Carers, in this process. This document provides an opportunity for you to share more detailed information with Key workers, from things that make your child happy to what you would like them to work on throughout their time in Nursery.*

*Our PLPs have a strong focus on Health and Wellbeing and are individual to every child. You will be able to set personalised targets for your child to work on in nursery, centred around the national wellbeing indicators, and receive regular feedback on your child's progress with these.*

## LUNCH



*At nursery children receive a small morning snack, a hot lunch and an afternoon snack.*

*Lunch time is a fantastic way to promote healthy eating with the children, encourage them to try new foods and develop social skills. The children have been making great attempts to try new things and eat their lunch and we will continue to encourage and support with this.*

*The menu operates on a 3 weekly cycle and can be found at the link below:*

*<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-meals/meal-menus/nursery-school-menu>*

*If your child does not eat any of their lunch we will give you a call to inform you.*



## WHAT TO BRING TO NURSERY

Children should come to nursery in comfortable play clothes—this can be our nursery uniform or their own clothes. Please do not dress your child in special clothing as we love messy play at nursery! We kindly ask that you provide the nursery with a spare set of clothes (including underwear) should your child require a change. This will prevent us from having to contact you to bring clothes to nursery during the session.



We also ask that children leave a pair of plimsoles in nursery to wear inside the playrooms to keep our play space nice and clean. Velcro shoes help to promote independence in our children.



Although we have a supply of wetsuits and wellies, we are happy to store children's personal outerwear in order that they can still go out in the rainy weather and have fun. Our lovely Scottish weather is temperamental at the moment, please ensure your child comes to nursery with a jacket in order that they can still play outdoors when it is raining.

If your child is not yet toilet trained, please provide the nursery with wipes, nappies, nappy bags and spare clothes including underwear.

Every child has a drawstring bag on their peg where they can store their belongings. This keeps our cloakroom areas neat, tidy and clutter free. However please ensure you label all your child's belongings including shoes, jumpers, cardigans etc as children often have similar clothing and this avoids confusion.

Lastly, we have lots of toys, puzzles, books and craft materials at nursery therefore there is no need to bring personal toys. We ask that these be kept safe at home as children can become upset if they misplace their toy or if others touch/try to play with it. If your child requires to bring a small transitional object/toy to help them settle, this should be discussed with your child's Key worker. Thank you for your support.

## COMMUNICATIONS



Where possible and practical, we will email you with any relevant information regarding the operations of the nursery. There may be some instances when information is sent out on paper where written consent is required. We will also post important information on our Twitter page and send texts when necessary.

Our Twitter is an excellent way to keep up to date with what is going on in the nursery. We will also post weekly pictures of the children and the activities on offer so that you can see what we have been doing in nursery and use this as a talking point with your child. Follow us at **@StHelensNLC**

In addition to this, we will also be introducing Online Learning Journals to keep you informed of your child's learning and progress. Come along to the school on Thursday 7th September to learn more about this.

## PARENT NOTICE BOARD



*Our parent/carer notice board is located in the cloakroom beside the main entrance. You can find important information about the nursery and Early Learning and Childcare in general, support leaflets, brown envelopes for the nursery fund, and much more.*

*We try to update this as regularly as possible with information that may be of use to you. Please check this regularly and help yourself to any articles and leaflets.*

## PROUD CLOUD



*Our children are growing and learning new things every day and meeting milestones in and out of nursery. We want to celebrate all of their achievements and showcase these for all to see.*

*If your child has a 'wow' moment at home, no matter how big or small, we would love it if you could send us a picture and a brief comment and we will display this on our 'Proud Cloud' - located in the cloakroom at the main entrance.*

*Proud Cloud details should be sent to Mrs Langford at [nllangfordn@northlan.org.uk](mailto:nllangfordn@northlan.org.uk)*

## KEEP IN TOUCH

### Newsletters

*Newsletters will continue to be delivered electronically and will be sent out in the following months:*

- *August/September*
- *October*
- *December*
- *January/February*
- *May*



*Follow us for important updates and information, and to see pictures of the children's learning on:*

### Twitter

[@StHelensNLC](https://twitter.com/StHelensNLC)



### Information on Early Learning and Childcare

[www.parentclub.scot](http://www.parentclub.scot)

<https://elcnorthlanarkshire.scot/parents.html>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day	Date	Event
Thursday	31st August 2023	Nursery Photographs
Thursday	7th September 2023	Come and Learn about Nursery 6.30pm School hall Parents/Carers only
Tuesday	19th September 2023	Vision Screening for Pre-school children in nursery
Friday	22nd September 2023	HOLIDAY
Monday	25th September 2023	
Tuesday	26th September	Nursery re-opens
Week beginning	9th October 2023	Settling In Update from Key workers
Week of	16th October 2023- 20th October 2023 (inclusive)	HOLIDAY
Monday	23rd October 2023	Nursery re-opens
Monday	6th November 2023	Blue Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Tuesday	7th November 2023	Red Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Wednesday	8th November 2023	Green Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Thursday	9th November 2023	Orange Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Friday	10th November 2023	Yellow Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Monday	13th November 2023	INSET—Nursery Closed
Monday	4th December 2023	PLP Tracker out to Parents/Carers
Wednesday	6th December 2023	Nursery Christmas Lunch
Friday	8th December 2023	Christmas Jumper Day (school and nursery)
Thursday	21st December	Nursery Christmas Fun Day
Friday	22nd December	Nursery closes at 2.45pm for Christmas

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Day	Date	Event
Monday	8th January 2024	Nursery re-opens
Monday	12th February 2024	HOLIDAY
Tuesday	13th February 2024	HOLIDAY
Wednesday	14th February 2024	Nursery closed—INSET
Thursday	7th March 2024	World Book Day
Monday	11th March 2024	Yellow Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Tuesday	12th March 2024	Blue Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Wednesday	13th March 2024	Orange Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Thursday	14th March 2024	Red Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Friday	15th March 2024	Green Group Come and Play (afternoon)
Monday	18th March 2024	PLP tracker home to Parents/Carers
Thursday	28th March 2024	Nursery closes at 2.45pm for Spring Holiday
Friday	29th March 2024—12th April (Inclusive)	HOLIDAY
Monday	15th April	Nursery re-opens
Thursday	2nd May 2024	INSET—Nursery closed
Monday	6th May 2024	HOLIDAY
Friday	24th May 2024	HOLIDAY
Monday	27th May 2024	HOLIDAY
Friday	7th June 2024	Nursery Fun Day
Monday	10th June 2023	Nursery Reports out to Parents/Carers
Thursday	13th June 2023	Nursery Parents' Night

***DATES FOR YOUR DIARY***

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>25th June 2024</i>	<i>1.30pm Nursery Graduation/End of Term celebration (all children to attend)</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>26th June 2024</i>	<i>Nursery closes at 2.45pm for summer</i>