

St Helen's Nursery Class



August/September 2024



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.

We have some changes to our staffing and we are delighted to welcome all our new staff members to the team.

We extend our congratulations to Mrs Semple—who after achieving her HNC in Childcare is now a Keyworker within the nursery.

Over the next few weeks the children will be settling into the nursery and our learning is focused on familiarising the children with the nursery routines and the environment. Our returners will be remembering all the familiar routines and supporting our new nursery children to learn these. The children will be building relationships with each other and with their Keyworkers as they explore all the resources and experiences on offer.

We are raring to go and are excited for the year ahead!

If there is someone new collecting your child from nursery we ask that you co-operate with an additional level of security in the form of a password system. Please speak with your child's keyworker and they can explain how this works.

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 in the playground most mornings.

Kindest regards,

Liz Kelly

NURSERY DETAILS

Session time	8.45am—2.45pm
Head Teacher	Mrs Liz Kelly
Principal Teacher	Mrs Siobhan Ferguson Mrs Clare Ireland Mrs Pamela Purdue
Early Learning and Childcare Keyworkers:	Mrs Nicola Langford (Lead) Mrs Lorraine Daly Mrs Audrey Semple Mrs Paula Forsyth Mrs Pamela Habbick
Early Learning and Childcare Support Workers:	Mrs Wai Lan Wan Ms Megan Yanetta-Pryde Mrs Linda Pender Mrs Kelly Grant

PLEASE REMEMBER THE NURSERY FINISHES EARLIER THAN THE SCHOOL DAY—AT 2.45PM. ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BE PICKED UP BY THIS TIME.

Nursery doors open for pick up from 2.30pm

IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES 2024-2025



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 focused on uniting as a new staff team with a shared commitment to the nursery aims and values. We intend to have a focus on assessment, learners' involvement, learners' voice and tracking learners' progress.

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 and our online profiles help to do this. For our new children we have also arranged for Key Workers to give you an update on how your child is settling into nursery life. A suitable times for this will be arranged with you from Monday 2nd September.

Please note that this is not a parents' evening—it is a 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 5th September at 6.30pm.

This is an excellent opportunity to find out more about the nursery day to day routines and have a wander around the nursery whilst there are no little ones around.

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 for your continued support with this.

NURSERY PHOTOGRAPHS



You will shortly receive 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 Tuesday 27th August so plenty of time to get practicing those smiles!

INFECTION CONTROL



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).

If your child is going to be off sick—please contact the school/nursery to let us know.

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) and they are unwell—they should not attend nursery

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.

All parents should have received an email alerting you to a child who is immunocompromised. Please can I remind you to alert the nursery if your child contracts measles, chickenpox or shingles as this child will require medical intervention to preserve their health.

We appreciate your support with this in helping to protect all 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 you are running late for nursery—please give us a call with details of your child's lunch order. If any child does not eat 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. It would be very helpful if children could bring a pair of wellies to be kept in the nursery. 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 one way to keep up to date with what is going on in the nursery. Follow us at **@StHelensNLC**

The best way to keep up to date on your child's learning and progress is through our Online Learning Journals. Please make sure you log on—and speak to a member of staff if you need any help with 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

KEEP IN TOUCH

Newsletters

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

- August/September (this one)
- October
- December
- January/February
- May



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

Learning Journals



Twitter

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



Information on Early Learning and Childcare

www.parentclub.scot

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date:	Event:
<u>August</u>	
Monday 12 th August 2024	INSET 1
Tuesday 13 th August 2024	INSET 2
Wednesday 14 th August 2024	Pupils Return
<u>September</u>	
27 th – 30 th Sept	September Weekend
<u>October</u>	
14 th – 18 th October 2024	October Week
Week beginning 21 st October	Sponsor fundraiser
<u>November</u>	
Week beginning 4 th November	Come and Play Week: Monday - Green Tuesday - Blue Wednesday – Red Thursday – Orange Friday – Catch Up
Monday 18 th November	INSET 3
<u>December</u>	
Thursday 5 th December	Nursery Children’s Christmas Lunch
Thursday 12 th December	School and Nursery Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 13 th December	Nursery Sing a Long
Thursday 19 th December	Nursery Fun Day
23 rd December – 3 rd January	Christmas Holiday children return on 6/1/25
<u>February</u>	
10 th – 14 th February 2025	Health Week
17 th – 18 th February 2025	February Holiday
Wednesday 19 th February 2025	INSET 4
<u>March</u>	
3 rd – 7 th March 2025	Fairtrade Week World Book Week
Week beginning 10 th March	Come and Play Week: Monday – Orange Tuesday - Red Wednesday – Blue Thursday – Green Friday – Catch Up
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	New P1 Information Evening at 6.30pm
Tuesday 18 th March 2025	Fashion Show
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	New P1 Lunch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date:	Event:
<u>April</u>	
7 th – 21 st April (inclusive)	Easter Holiday
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	New P1 Taster (session 1)
Tuesday 29 th April 2025	New P1 Taster (session 2)
<u>May</u>	
Monday 5 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	INSET 5
Tuesday 13 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 3)
Tuesday 20 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 4)
23 rd – 26 th May 2025	Holiday
Tuesday 27 th May 2025	New P1 Taster (session 5)
<u>June</u>	
Tuesday 3 rd June 2025	New P1 Class Visit
Friday 6 th June 2025	Nursery Summer Fun Day
Monday 9 th June 2025	Nursery Reports to Parents
Tuesday 10 th June 2025	New P1 Class Visit
Thursday 12 th June 2025 – Tuesday 17 th June	Nursery Progress Meetings Thursday 12 th June – Blue Group Friday 13 th June – Green Group Monday 16 th June – Red Group Tuesday 17 th June – Orange Group
Tuesday 24 th June 2025	Nursery Graduation
Wednesday 25 th June 2025	Nursery closes for summer