



St Michael's Nursery Newsletter

November 2016

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been a very busy time for us over the last few weeks. The children have all settled into nursery life and are learning the routines and nursery golden rules. You may have noticed our kindness tree in the foyer, we use this when children show acts of kindness within the nursery either to their peers, staff or have shown kindness at home. Please keep us informed if you think your child has shown kindness out with nursery and we will add them to our tree. The children have a great sense of pride and achievement when they can put their kindness flower on the tree.



November Topic

We will continue working on the topic 'Shanarri getting it right for every child'. Your child may have already discussed with you our new puppets Sid and Shanarri. These puppets link in with stories relating to the indicators of getting it right for every child, we hope by using these children will become aware of the words and of being safe, healthy, active, nurtured, respected, responsible and included. We have been reading the stories to the children over the last few weeks and introducing them to their rights according to the UN rights of the child. We hope this will encourage the children to be more aware of how people in their lives work to keep them safe and healthy. Along with the Shanarri topic we will be looking at Autumn, focussing on the changes in the environment. The children have been on Autumn walks where they collected leaves and looked at the different shapes and colours. We will be learning about dark and light and introducing the basics of time.

Parent Meetings

Thank you for coming along to your child's parents meeting, we hope you found these informative. Please let a member of staff know if you were unable to make any of the appointments and another time can be arranged for you to meet your child's Key Worker.

Halloween

Thank you to everyone for taking part in our Halloween show. This was the first time some of our children have performed in front of an audience and we were very proud of them. Roll on our Nativity Performance.



School Photographs



This is due to take place on Thursday 10th November while your child is at nursery. If you wish a family photo to be taken please ensure you have completed the form that was previously sent out. If not then please speak to a member of staff. All children will be taken for an individual photo during their nursery session by the nursery staff but if you have any younger children and wish a photo of them with their sibling please bring them along to the main hall either at 8.30 a.m. or 1.00 p.m.

Students

Over the next few weeks we will be welcoming Early Education in Childhood students to our Nursery. Zoe Armitage who is working towards her NC, will be working with us on a Tuesday and Wednesday and Caitlin Picken who is working towards gaining an HNC will be with us every Monday and Friday. Throughout the year we will be working with a number of students from different colleges and universities.

Play on Pedals

Having previously completed a Play on Pedals course, Mrs Donaldson is now qualified to teach children the different stages of riding a bike. Research and studies have shown balance bikes are more beneficial to train children to learn to ride bikes as opposed to using stabilisers. It is suggested if you do not have a balance bike, pedals and stabilisers are taken off your child's current bike. This will allow them to learn to balance before pedalling. The Nursery will be taking this initiative forward and are looking to acquire a number of balance bikes.



Learning bags

Within the foyer there are a number of learning bags. These are in blue rucksacks and contain a number of stories, games and jigsaws. They are a great resource to help you work with your child at home. Please help yourself to one of these bags and just note down in the yellow notebook which bag you have taken. The children thoroughly enjoy using these bags and are great for learning.

Library books



We are hoping to start our Lending Library soon. The children will be given a book to read at home which they can then swap the following week. If you are interested in helping out with this it would be greatly appreciated. Please note that this service cannot be started without parents' support due to staff commitments in the nursery.

St Andrew's Day Balloon Race



Please support the school and help raise money for the charity Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Scotland. Balloons cost £3 each or 4 for £10 and can be purchased online at rabr.co/sbhscotland or by calling SBH Scotland on 03455 211 600. Alternatively see a member of staff who can arrange to purchase a balloon on your behalf. Full information is also available on the notice board in the foyer.

Grounds for Learning

Mrs McDowall is currently running a very successful workshop with a selection of children and parents in our forest area on a Tuesday morning. This is as a result of the highly positive sessions that were established last session with Lorna from Grounds for Learning. The feedback we've had from this has been very encouraging. Look out for further opportunities to get involved in the future. Look out for photographs on the school blog at www.st-michaels.n-lanark.sch.uk

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre will take place on Monday 28th November at 7.00 p.m. There will be lots of lovely things to purchase and Santa may also make a special appearance. Any donations would be most welcome for the raffle or tombola stall.



December Dates

We have two dates where we would like to invite all the children to come to Nursery to practice together for our Nativity. These are:

Thurs 8th December - All afternoon children to come to nursery from 9.00 until 10.00 a.m. to practice. Morning children to come to nursery and be picked up at normal times.

Mon 12th December - All morning children are invited back to nursery from 2.00 - 3.00 p.m. Afternoon children to come to Nursery and be picked up at normal times.

Weds 14th December - Nursery Nativity at 1.30 p.m. tickets will go on sale soon.

Nursery Parties - Dates will be confirmed in December newsletter.

All children are invited to attend the nursery on the morning of Friday 23rd December. **There will be no afternoon session on this day.**

More information about what we've got planned for Christmas will follow in a December Newsletter

INSET Day

Please remember that Monday 21st November will be an In-service Day for all school and nursery staff.

Stay & Play

Last year we were in the fortunate position to run our stay and play sessions on a Friday morning. Unfortunately we no longer receive funding to run these workshops at present but have applied for various grants to help us run it in the future. We will keep you posted.

Points of Information

Please remind your child not to bring toys into the nursery in case these get lost or broken.

Please inform the nursery staff if you change address, phone number or emergency contact details.

Thank you for your continuing support and remember if you have any comments or suggestions either speak to one of the nursery staff or simply complete a comment card (available in the foyer).

And finally, Mrs Greechan would like to extend her gratitude to all for the cards, prayers and messages of support she received following the death of her father.

Yours sincerely

The Nursery Team

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS