

# St Michael's Nursery Newsletter

February 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

The children have been very busy since we returned from our Christmas break. We have welcomed a few new children to our nursery this term and we hope they enjoy their time with us.

By now all children going to Primary 1 in August should have been enrolled at school.

## Lending Library

We have started to issue children with a library book to take home every week. Unfortunately we have had no offers of help to run this. This is a valuable resource for the children and they thoroughly enjoy taking their books home, if you are able to spare half an hour a week to help with this please speak to a member of staff.

## January/February topic



Last month the children were busy learning about winter weather, water and ice. They participated in many experiments involving water, including making ice and melting it again. They also learned the importance of saving water. The children enthusiastically observed patterns in the nursery environment and created their own.

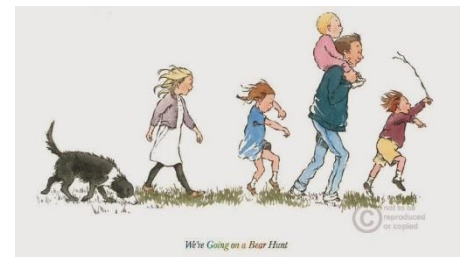
Well done to the children in their participation in Burns Activities. They showed confidence in singing 'You Cannae Shove Your Granny Off a Bus' and the morning children performed beautifully at the school assembly. All children had the opportunity to taste their haggis, neeps and tatties at the Burns Supper and participated in Ceilidh dancing.

The children have also been introduced into some Chinese culture by researching Chinese New Year through stories, short films and activities. They also had a lovely Chinese snack of rice, noodles, curry and prawn crackers.

## February Topic

This month the children will be learning all about the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. This is a favourite amongst the children, we will be using our new Three Read Approach when reading the story to the children. They will be learning about the characters, the problem as well as the resolution within the story. Please remember that you can help your child at home by reading them stories and talking about the main parts of the book, the author, illustrator and the front and back of the book. You may be impressed with their knowledge. We will also be talking about bears and their habitats as well as feelings throughout this topic.

The children will also use technology to explore animals and their habitats by researching on iPads and the smartboard.



## Forest Kindergarten

We are so fortunate to have our onsite forest and hopefully this month the weather will improve for children to benefit fully from this fantastic outdoor learning area. All preschool children will each receive a block of Forest Kindergarten during normal session times. Each block will consist of 1 session per week for 4 weeks on a Tuesday. It is hoped that the first block will begin on 8<sup>th</sup> March.



To enable this to go ahead we are reliant on parent helpers.

One parent has already volunteered to help in the afternoons.

Please advise Mrs McDowall if you are available to come along as a parent helper in the morning sessions. This would involve helping the children get ready and assisting in the forest for approximately 2 hours per week.

More information and permission slips will follow along with details of which block your child will participate in.

## Eco Garden

With spring approaching we would hope to start using our garden and mud kitchen within the Eco Garden. Unfortunately, due to the winter, it is in need of some maintenance and any help in tidying it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to nursery staff if you are able to help in any way.

## World Book Day - Library visit

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February we will be visiting the library during both the morning and afternoon sessions. Children are invited to come to nursery dressed as their favourite character from a book.

If you are able to come along as a parent helper please return the slip at the end of the newsletter.



## Transition to P.1



If you haven't already done so, please return the Transition Events return slip. There are many exciting events for all our children moving on to P.1 in August. We realise it may not be possible to attend all the dates but please come along to as many as you can.

## Learning Bags

We have a variety of learning bags available for children to work through at home. These may contain books, puzzles and other learning resources relating to the topic of the bag. Many children have already enjoyed using these at home and this is a good resource to work through with your child. Please make sure you check the contents of the bag before you return it.



## Stay and Play at Nursery

We hope to invite parents/carers to spend time with their child during a nursery session to see all the busy work that goes on. Further information will be available soon.

### Five to Thrive

We were disappointed that only one parent came along for a coffee and a blether hosted by Monica from Barnardos. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents, get some advice or simply just for some company. All are very welcome to come along.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March**

**11.00 – 11.45 a.m. and 12.45 – 1.30 p.m.**

Sessions can be added or altered depending on what you would like or what you would feel more useful.

### Stay & Play

We are delighted that so many of you came to our first session of 'Stay & Play'.

If you have a child around 2 years old come along to our 'Stay & Play' toddler sessions from 9.15am until 10.30am on Friday mornings. The sessions will consist of structured, modelled play sessions led by Play Practitioners from Barnardos and from around 10.15am will finish with a snack and a story while parents can have a tea or coffee. Everyone is welcome!

### Nursery Nativity Questionnaire

Our results from the Nursery Nativity Questionnaire were very positive.

Thank you for all the kind comments which included:-

**A wonderful nativity. The children performed confidently and the singing was great. It was a lovely afternoon.**

**My child loved the nativity, they loved being on the stage.**

**Enjoyed the involvement and performance of the older children from Primary School.**

**The children were all confident with their parts which made the show enjoyable for everyone.**

We will take on board comments on how to improve our future Nativities.

### Children's clothing and footwear



Can you please check you have your child's name on all their clothing and footwear. Your child may share a peg and shoe box with another child and it is important that they have their name on their clothing to ensure there are no mix ups. Please provide your child with plimsoles rather than crocks, as these can be slippery when children participate in gym lessons etc. Thanks for your help with this.

### 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).

Dates for your diary

Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Visits to Moodiesburn Library
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Pre school children visit to Summerlee for a Little Engineers workshop. (More details will be issued nearer the time.)
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> - Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Closed for Easter Holidays, children return Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely

The Nursery Team

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

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**World Book Week - Mon 27<sup>th</sup> February**

I am able to accompany the nursery on their library visit am/pm

(please circle)

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_