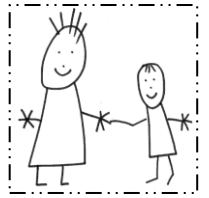


# St Michael's Nursery Newsletter

## October 2023



Dear Parents / Carers,



The children are all well settled into nursery life and are enjoying taking part in a variety of different activities. There has been lots going on with more planned for the next few months. The white board in the nursery foyer will keep you up updated with relevant information and points of interest.

### OCTOBER TOPIC

This month the children will be learning about Halloween and Autumn. They will explore events and characters in stories and other texts. They will be introduced to routines and events which link to seasons using clocks, calendars and other methods. Through drama they will have the opportunity to express and communicate their ideas, thoughts and feelings.



### LEARNING JOURNALS

All of the children's Learning Journals for the month of September will be published by the end of this week. I hope you find this a useful tool to see what your child has been learning at nursery. Remember you can add your own updates with achievements made at home so staff can share these with the children. If you are new to Learning Journals or have not logged on for a while, you will be sent an email straight from Learning Journals asking you to set up your account. It would be helpful if you could change your settings to send you an email every time an update is posted to your child's account, so you don't miss anything. If you have any questions or need any help with this, then please speak with a member of staff.

### SWAY



Since returning to nursery in August, as you know our staffing has changed a bit and we now have less staff than we previously did. As a result, the staff have to prioritise working with the children and delivering a high quality range of learning experiences and fun activities. The monthly SWAY that we like to produce, for the time being, will not be able to be shared with you and hopefully, once time allows, we will be able to reintroduce this again in the future. In the meantime, Learning Journals will still be published with a range of more personal activities, and you are welcome to come into the nursery to have a look around if you would like to do so.

## **PARENT'S MEETINGS**

These will take place over the course of the week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> October. There are lists for each group in the nursery foyer for parents to select a time that suits you to meet with your child's Key Worker. This meeting will include information about how they are settling at nursery and will focus on target setting if these have not been done in consultation with a member of staff already.



## **MOBILE PHONE**

Please remember that the nursery mobile number is 07950 584596 and staff can take calls or messages via this phone out with school hours. The main school office phone should be used in the first instance during the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. while the office is staffed. The mobile will be the only means of communication out with these times.

## **TERM TIME CHILDREN**



Children who have been allocated a 9.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. session are only entitled to these hours. Please wait until as close to 9.00 a.m. as you can before bringing your child to nursery, and they must all be out of the building by 3.00 p.m. As our staffing has recently changed, we now have more term time staff who start at 9.00 a.m. and if children are arriving before this, then it becomes very busy for the staff who have started at 8.00 a.m. If you need to adjust your hours in any way, then we are happy to discuss these with you on an individual basis. Thank you for your understanding.

## **LENDING LIBRARY**

We are still looking for parent volunteers to allow us to start the reading lending library. This has been successful in the past and the children have enjoyed bringing home books to share with their families at home. Please speak to a member of staff if you would be able to help with this.



## **HOLIDAYS AND INSET DAY**

Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> October is the school October Holiday and for those of you who are Term Time and therefore, on holiday during this week, we hope that you all have a lovely, enjoyable break with your families.

The nursery will be closed for an INSERVICE DAY on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November.



## HALLOWEEN

We are delighted to be able to invite parents and carers back into our building again for our joint nursery and infant Halloween Parade. This will take place in the afternoon of **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October**. More details will follow nearer the time, but AM children will be invited back in the afternoon to attend, and a party will take place in the morning as well so that all children are included in our Halloween celebrations.

## OCTOBER WEEK PROVISION

Many thanks to the AM and PM parents who replied to the Form about the proposed one session for during the October Week. I appreciate that for working arrangements and prior commitments, possible changes to a session could result in inconvenience. Based on results from the Form, we will be sticking with our normal two sessions throughout this week so please bring your child to their AM or PM session as you normally would.

## WEATHER

As the weather is now changing and becoming colder and wetter, we would ask that all children come to nursery in appropriate clothing. We strongly discourage trainers or shoes with laces at nursery as getting ready to go outdoors becomes very time consuming for staff. Welly boots are perfect for this time of year and the children can put them on themselves which gives them a sense of achievement and pride. If all children could come with a change of clothing, including socks please. These could be left in a small bag that your child carries back and forth to nursery or in their green bag on their peg. Please ensure that all items, including shoes, are named.

We also ask that at home you work with your child to develop their independence skills to allow them to be able to be able to take off and put on their shoes/boots and coats by themselves. Doing this gives the children a great sense of achievement.



## MEDICINE IN THE NURSERY

Please ensure that any medicine or inhalers are handed to a member of nursery staff and not left in your child's bag. Even if your child does not require to be given the medicine during the session, it must be kept in a secure cupboard whilst in the nursery. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



## PM LUNCHES

For children who attend our afternoon sessions, we are finding that most of them are coming to nursery having already had lunch at home. I know that waiting until around 1.30pm for lunch might be a bit late for them but we are legally obliged to provide a lunch to all children. Perhaps a smaller snack before coming to nursery would keep



them going until lunchtime? We are finding that most of the food is being put in the bin, and as providing lunches to all is a Scottish Government initiative, we can't even keep it until they are hungrier later in the session. Thanks for your support of our 'Loving Lunches' sessions.

## TOILET TRAINING

By the time a three year old starts nursery they really should be toilet trained unless there is a medical or specific reason why they are not. We are finding more children starting nursery in nappies. Good practice is to have three consecutive days at home to allow children to become confident with using the toilet. Please let me know or speak with a member of staff if you are having trouble training your child for the toilet.



Your Health Visitor is also available for advice regarding this.

## DOGS

Can I remind all parents and carers that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time. This includes small dogs that are being carried. Thank you with your support around this.

## SPONSORED EVENT FOR ST MICHAEL'S DAY

The children will participate in the sponsored dance & walk throughout the day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. We would like to thank everyone for the sponsor money handed in so far and to remind anyone with outstanding donations to hand these into the nursery by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October. I'm sure everyone will have a great time.

## PARKING

We would like to remind all parents and carers that we cannot have anyone use the staff car park for walking through or parking in. This is for the safety of all of our children. We have also been asked by the residents at Auchengeich Gardens, across from the basketball court, that we do not park on their access road. This can prevent emergency service or mobility vehicles from being able to access the area. Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

## **POINTS OF INFORMATION**

We would ask you to please remind your child not to bring toys into the nursery, unless this has been previously agreed with a staff member.

Please inform the nursery staff if you change address, phone number, email address 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 send me an email:

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

Finally, can I ask all parents to pass on any relevant information from this newsletter to any other family members or friends who may help with your childcare arrangements around nursery.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Di Mascio