



St Michael's Nursery Newsletter

January/February 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you had a magical Christmas and fabulous New Year, although it almost seems so long ago now. The children have told us all about all the lovely gifts Santa left them and it sounds like everyone had a wonderful time. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the very kind Christmas gifts. We would like to welcome a new Key Worker, Mrs McKellar who will be starting with us on Monday 29th January. I know that all of the children will make her very welcome.

St Michael's Nursery has many exciting things planned over the coming months. Please read on for more information.

Topics



We are learning about the story, *The Gruffalo's Child*, by Julia Donaldson. The children will be learning to understand stories and will have the opportunity to ask questions, and link what they are learning to what they already know. They will be gathering information, organising and displaying their findings in different ways.

World Book Day

The nursery will be celebrating World Book Day on Thurs 7th March. All our children are welcome to come to nursery dressed as their favourite book character. Please do not go to any added expense to provide a costume, we have some in the nursery if required.

The Book Fair will be in the school week beg. 18th March and nursery children and parents will be given the opportunity to visit this during the week. We have a stock of £1.00 off vouchers which will be available at the Book Fair.

Parent's Committee

Many thanks to the number of parents who have volunteered their time to become part of a new Nursery Parent's Committee. The first meeting will be at 1.30 p.m. on Friday 2nd February. Even if you have not been able to commit to the committee so far, all would be welcome to come along. You may have something to ask, something to share or ideas to take the nursery forward. Your opinion and feedback are always appreciated.

Nursery Uniform

It is great to see so many of our children wearing the nursery uniform. Please remember to write your child's name inside. A few jumpers have been getting mixed up therefore please make sure you take the correct jumper home. Jumpers can be ordered online from www.logoxpres.co.uk under St. Michael's Primary.

Staff Car Park



For health and safety reasons, parents and carers are reminded not to park in or walk through the staff car park with their child. Please enter and exit the nursery using the arranged procedures we have in place for the different times of the day. I know this can become confusing, but it is this way in order to keep everyone safe. If you collect your child from nursery at 3.00 p.m., please exit the yard and wait for any remaining school children to be dismissed at their allocated gates as other parents, who are collecting school children do. Many thanks for your support with this in helping to keep everyone safe.

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted in school grounds at any time, even if being carried in arms. Again, thank you for your support with this.

School Enrolments



Many thanks to everyone who has enrolled their child to start school in August. We are looking forward to welcoming our pre-school nursery children along with new friends from other nurseries to school in August. I will be in touch in the coming weeks to provide information regarding our transition arrangements.

All parents of children who are returning to nursery next year will have received a link to a form asking for your preferred session from August 2024. Please note that we don't yet know what number of spaces for Term Time/AM/PM children we will be allocated from North Lanarkshire yet and so at present this is purely an information gathering exercise for us. Many thanks to those who have already completed the form.

PEEP

Mrs McCormack is trained in delivering the PEEP programme. The Peep Learning Together Programme helps parents, carers and practitioners make the most of the learning opportunities in everyday life, supporting their babies' and young children's learning through play. She is hoping to run another successful programme over the course of a few weeks, and will be in touch about this with dates. We hope that if you are available, you would consider coming along and finding out more about it.

Time Keeping



If your child attends nursery between 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. (Term Time), please try to ensure that they arrive on time as we start our learning sharp at 9.00 a.m. and children brought in late can disrupt our routines. Many thanks with your support with this. The main gate at the front of the school, continues to be the main entrance for nursery children. Children starting at 9.00 a.m. are also welcome to enter via the gate at the basketball court should this be more convenient for you, however, we would appreciate if you would wait until a member of school management opens this gate around 8.50 a.m. For the safety of all of our pupils, this gate is locked again shortly after the 9.00 a.m. bell has sounded.

Toilet Training

It is normal procedure that children are fully toilet trained before they start nursery at 3 years of age. We recommend three consecutive days at home to give children the best possible chance of being successful. If there is a particular reason, which we do not already know of, as to why your child is not yet toilet trained then please speak with a member of staff. We are happy to support you in toilet training within the nursery and in changing any accidents during the early stages, however, three days at home prior to coming back to nursery can make a big difference. Please contact your Health Visitor if you are having problems with getting your child out of nappies.

Staff Remits

We have been looking at the remits of staff and making plans for staff to take forward different initiatives and focus groups for the benefit of all children. If you have a skill or interest that you would like to bring into our nursery, then please speak with any member of staff or get in touch with me directly. Everyone is welcome to have an input.

Open Week

Prior to Parent's Meetings at the end of March, we are going to have an Open Week where each group of children will be allocated one day over the course of the week where parents and carers will be welcome to join us. You may want to pop in for half an hour or stay for longer. This is designed for you to become part of your child's nursery experience but is in no way compulsory, as we understand that many parents work and will not be able to join us. If you are able to come along, you will be encouraged to play with your child and get involved in their usual routines. More details will follow nearer the time but in the meantime, for your own planning, the dates we have allocated each group are below.



Week beginning 4th March

- Monday - Daisies
- Tuesday - Roses
- Wednesday - Poppies
- Thursday - Daffodils
- Friday - Bluebells

Lending Library

Mrs Donaldson has arranged for our children's lending library to be back next week. Children's language and communication is greatly enhanced through reading books. The children will be given the opportunity to choose a book to take home each week. Please ensure that you take the time to read the book and discuss the story with your child.



Books are sent home on a Wednesday and should be returned on a Monday.

Many thanks to all of you who are completing the evaluations forms with your children.

Forest Kindergarden

Mrs Macartney and Mrs Miller will be leading these sessions along with Mrs McDowall over the month of February. The staff member your child has been allocated to attend the forest with, will be in touch with you directly.



Five to Thrive

We participate in North Lanarkshire's Five to Thrive initiative where we have the benefit of support from Monica and her team. They have access to a variety of services and support groups that you may be interested in. Remember that Monica runs a drop in for coffee and a chat every Wednesday morning and a toddler group in the school every Friday. Please note that all are welcome at both.

Holidays

The school and nursery will be closed for all our term time children on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th February. I will send out a link to all AM and PM children in the coming days to see who is planning to attend nursery during these days,

The nursery will be closed to all children on Wednesday 14th February as it is an in-service day.

Mobile

The nursery mobile continues to be the best way to contact staff out with school hours when the main office is not staffed however, we ask that any calls during office hours are made by contacting the school office first. The nursery mobile number is **07950 584596**.

Foyer

We are planning to revamp our nursery foyer in the coming weeks to allow more space for parents and carers to have their say. If there is anything in particular you would like to see on our walls, then please let me or a member of nursery staff know.

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).

Yours sincerely

Mrs Di Mascio

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS