

St Peter's Nursery Class August/September 2015 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to nursery after the summer holidays and a very special welcome to our new children who have joined us for the first time this session. We wish you all a very happy year at nursery with lots of fun activities planned!

Nursery Team

Our nursery team is made up of Nicola Logue, Senior Pre 5 officer, Stephanie Kennedy, Judith McGrath and Faye Wilson, who are our pre 5 officers working on a job-share basis. We extend a warm welcome to Elena Braxton and Katrina Robinson who are joining the team as our pre 5 officers for the new 2-3 year playroom. The children will also benefit from the expertise of Caroline McAuley who is our nursery early years teacher who will be with us one and a half days per week. Caroline will work between nursery and P1 ensuring continuity of learning and a smooth transition for our little ones. The team are looking forward to working together and planning a wide variety of learning activities for the children over the forthcoming year.

Curriculum for Excellence

The Curriculum for Excellence is now fully embedded, with children learning in a fun and creative way with a focus on literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Assessment is for Learning strategies are an established part of children's learning, ensuring that they make progress and are supported and challenged. There is time each day for outdoor learning, together time and free-play where the children can self-select from a wide range of activities. If you would like to know more about the early years curriculum and the range of activities provided at St Peter's, we will be holding a Curriculum Open Evening in the nursery on Tuesday 2nd September from 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Refreshments will be served.

Curriculum Focus

This term, the children's topic will be "All About Me" with a focus on getting to know each other, where we live, house/flat number and our likes and dislikes. We will be listening to stories about families, learning rhymes about houses and homes and using the computer to find out more about our local area.

The children will also benefit from weekly visits to the school gym, the parent run library and participation in infant assemblies and theatre shows. Our first performance with the school is scheduled for Tuesday 2nd September to see Treasure Island. We also have organised a visit to Paisley Arts Centre to participate in a Scottish Opera musical workshop. This is on Thursday 17th September at 11am and 2pm. More details to follow.

Spanish will continue with weekly 'together times' undertaken by one of our parents, Elaine Doig. These were very successful last year, and valued by the staff who were able to reinforce Spanish phrases and vocabulary with children throughout the week.

Nicola will continue the Forest Schools programme with groups of pre 5 children visiting the Gleniffer Braes on a weekly basis. This will be starting in September. Stephanie will work with her nurture groups, liaising closely with P1 and P2 teachers and sharing her expertise with other members of staff.

Snack/Activity Fund and Wrap Around Costs

In order to pay for the daily snacks and nursery activities such as baking, bus trips and Spanish, we ask you for a small voluntary contribution of £3.00 per week. We prefer if you could pay this on a termly basis, and preferably at the start of the term. This term there are eight weeks until the October week, so we would be asking you to pay £24.00 and if possible, at the beginning of next week. If you would rather pay on a weekly basis, please let Nicola know.

We do not collect money for additional hours/wrap around care, The cost of these hours are billed directly to you by Renfrewshire Council, but we keep a signed record of the hours agreed by you. Nicola will oversee this and you can read more about this on the Council website.

Health and Safety

We aim to provide a safe and secure environment for our children to play and learn in. Our policies are in the reception area and are continually reviewed and updated in consultation with parents/carers and staff. These are also available on the school website.

Children in their preschool year will be offered vision screening by the NHS in the nursery this term. You will soon receive paperwork to sign if you would like your child to be screened.

Parent Fund Raising Committee

We have had an excellent Parent Fund Raising Committee with lots of fun activities undertaken over the past year. The children have benefited from a variety of visits and beautiful gifts received at Christmas, Easter and Graduation. The first meeting will be on Tues 9th Sept at 11.30am in the nursery. Please come along and give us your support. If you would like to be part of the nursery activity fund constitution, please let myself or Mrs Mazzone know and we will contact you with details in the near future. We meet twice a year to agree that what we spend our fund on is for the benefit of our children.

Nursery Photographs

The school photographer is coming to St Peter's on 3rd September and will take a nursery group photograph. Morning children will be taken at 10.30am in the school hall. Afternoon children will be taken at 12.30pm. More details to follow.

Dates for the Diary

- Tuesday 2nd September - Treasure Island theatre in school.
Early Years Curriculum Evening
6.30pm - 7.30pm
- Thursday 3rd September - Tempest Photography
- Tuesday 9th September - Nursery Parent Fundraising Group - 11.30am
- Thurs 17th September - Paisley Arts Centre Workshop
- Friday 25th Sept - Nursery closed for September Weekend
- Tuesday 29th Sept - Nursery Re opens