

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

## *St Elizabeth's Primary & Nursery School*

Head Teacher, Miss Christine MacPhee

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*Learn Together, Laugh Together, Be the Best You Can!*

Enjoyment

### **Nursery Newsletter 2, Oct 2018**

Respect

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our October newsletter of our new session – the days are getting that little bit chillier now and it is great to see the children coming to nursery wrapped up warmly. As usual, they will have the opportunity to be outside every day regardless of the weather and we greatly appreciate your support in helping to ensure they are appropriately dressed. Please read on for further update about our nursery...

#### **Nursery Staff**

- We have a Modern Apprentice joining us this session and we warmly welcome Kayleigh Simmons to our establishment. Kayleigh will be in the 2-3 room until Christmas and then transfer to the 3-5 room. Whilst she is in the 2-3 room, she will be under the supervision of Emma, who will help provide the necessary guidance and support to Kayleigh as she learns more about the role of Early Years Worker and embraces the learning experience this year.
- We are saying a fond farewell to Hazel who will no longer be with us from the end of this term. We would like to thank Hazel for all her commitment and hard work during her many years with us. I know many of you will have gotten to know Hazel over the years and on behalf of us all, we wish her all the best for the future.

#### **Nursery Times**

- Our nursery begins promptly at 8.45am each morning and our children gather in small groups to discuss and share their feelings, hear more about the learning opportunities available, recap on previous learning, etc. It is such an important time to help with your child's learning. Thank you for ensuring your child is with us on time as this all helps with the settling in routine and them hearing about what is happening in the nursery each day. We also finish at 2.45pm and we would be grateful if your child can remain in nursery with us until that time. Whilst we understand there may be a need to remove them early if they have an appointment, this can be quite disruptive for their learning and we would ask that you try your best to limit this. Children need to be collected at 2.45pm as our staff are involved in staff development work from that time until 4pm each day and so are not available to supervise children. If you are held up for any reason, please phone our nursery or school office to let us know.
- Our nursery lunchtime is going very well and the children are doing wonderfully well. They are getting very skilled at clearing away their plate and cup or packed lunch...take note for home! A wee reminder about nursery packed lunches – a sandwich, piece of fruit or yogurt, a small treat and a drink is quite adequate we feel. Can we all please remember that we are a health promoting nursery so fizzy drinks, sugary sweets or

### Nursery Admin

- As you know, Mrs Holding provides our clerical support in the nursery each day and is based in the nursery office. Mrs Holding is doing a fantastic job of supporting our nursery and should you have any queries about our nursery, please feel free to ask her as you drop off/pick up. Alternatively, our nursery telephone number is **286270** however you can also call our school number **285080** and staff would be happy to help.
- Our snack money donation remains at 50p per day and should continue to be paid either weekly or monthly please. This money is used to provide a daily snack for the children, to help with party food, presents at acceptable. Christmas, etc. and a range of other activities that all benefit our children and without it we cannot provide the resources we do. Please support us by ensuring your snack money is up-to-date. Thank you so much for your help.

### Procedures

- Please note you may receive a text or a phone call if your child is absent from nursery if you have not already been in touch. Keeping us updated about any absences, appointments, etc all helps us to know more about your child and we greatly appreciate your support with this.

### Information Evening/Meetings

- Thank you very much to all parents and carers who managed along to our Information Evening in September. It was lovely to have such a great turn out and for you to be able to learn more about our nursery.
- We have recently held settling-in meetings to help provide you with further information about your child at this stage. Our staff work extremely hard to give you up-to-date information and we value your opinions. As such, I would be grateful if you would please complete and return the short questionnaire attached to the newsletter to help us evaluate these meetings. Thank you very much for your feedback.

### Fundraising

- We are planning to have the first meeting to discuss fundraising ideas on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9am** and then again **at 2.30pm**. Please come along - everyone is VERY welcome and your ideas and suggestions are much appreciated. Robyn will be leading this group and is excited about lots of various possibilities to help raise much needed funds for our nursery.
- Our sponsored reading event, courtesy of Usborne Books, has raised an amazing £528.30 so far! This is just terrific and we are overwhelmed by your generosity towards this event. If there is any more forms still to be returned, can we ask that you return them to nursery by this coming Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. Thank you very much. We also have a Guess the Member of Staff fundraiser taking place, again, thank you for your support with this.

### Can you help?

- We are still looking for any possible donation of cushions and are wondering if there are any spare ones at home that you wouldn't mind handing in...any size or colour would be GREATLY appreciated. We are creating small areas within our 2-3 room as well as in the new quiet room in our 3-5 room and cushions help to make this so much comfier for our children. Your donations do of course help us to save our pennies and we are very appreciative of donations.

## **Important Nursery Information - a reminder ...**

**\*Nut allergies** – just a reminder to everyone that we are a nut free nursery. Children should not bring any snacks or items in packed lunch boxes that may contain nuts or nut based ingredients.

**\*Health Promotion** – we are a health promoting nursery and are trying to encourage our children to think about what they eat and drink. The snacks we provide in nursery are required to meet certain standards and can only have a certain percentage of salt, sugar, etc. We are also trying to reduce the amount of plastic we use.

**\*Absences/Lateness/Leaving Early** - If your child is to be absent from nursery, please phone our school office as soon as possible to inform us. We have an answering machine for your use. Lateness, absences and leaving early are recorded daily and if either of these become serious, the nursery place for your child may have to be re-allocated to a child on our ever increasing waiting list.

**\*Contact Details** - are your contact details up-to-date? If you have change number or e-mail address, please let our office staff know. This also applies to emergency contacts too.

**\*Head Lice** – we have had recent reports of head lice amongst some of our school pupils. We ask all parents and carers in our school and nursery to please check hair regularly and to treat if necessary.

**\*Nursery Lunches** – If your child does not like the lunch menu choice on any given day, they will need to bring a packed lunch to nursery. Most of our children enjoy their nursery lunch and they are enjoying the social aspect of eating together.

**\*Car Park** – please remember not to park in the disabled bays unless you have a relevant badge. Thank you to all nursery drivers for your vigilance and care in our car park, it is greatly appreciated.



## Learn more about our fantastic learning!

Our 2-3 room children have been learning lots of nursery rhymes and action songs (such as Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes; If You're Happy and You Know it ) and are wonderful at reciting them. They are growing in confidence with this and it is lovely to see. They have been learning Twinkle, Twinkle; Humpty Dumpty and Incy Wincy Spider. I'm sure they're happily singing and reciting them at home too. We have been working with the children on listening to music which they are all enjoying.

The children have also been learning about nursery routines such as hand washing, having snack, etc. They have been learning more about taking turns and also about the concept and skills of sharing. We are working on developing their self-help skills and we would ask you to encourage your child to put on their own coat, shoes, etc to help further support these skills. The extra few minutes this may take is time well spent for your child.

They have been exploring different materials such as pasta,, rice, lentils, etc pouring these items from containers and exploring their textures. You may sometimes notice the items over the nursery floor...don't be alarmed, this is all part of their learning.

Along in our 3-5 room, our children have also been revisiting and learning various nursery rhymes. A list of these rhymes is attached to the newsletter for your information and we would encourage you to go over these at home, in the car, etc.

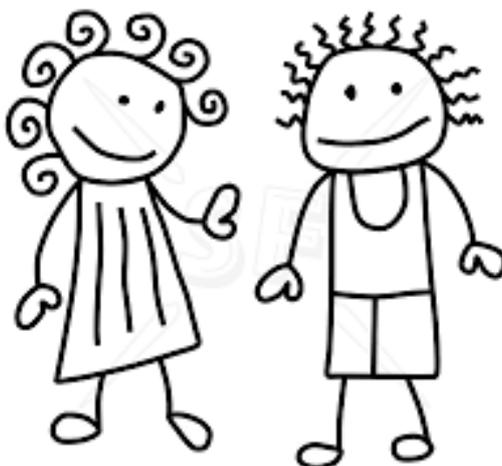
Our children have been participating in lots of food activities, including making soup! They have been learning about food groups and have even been involved in creating a snack menu. They have been learning about where different foods come from and are able to categorise foods into fruit/veg groups.

We have been busy exploring sounds and letter shapes as well as numbers up to 10. Playing I-Spy and counting games at home would help to reinforce these growing skills.

Outdoor learning has included learning to ride bikes and scooters safely and being more aware of other children as well as obstacles. They children have also been enjoying large construction activities as well as physical play.

### Hallowe'en Party

Hallowe'en is fast approaching and the children are starting to get VERY excited already. We will be having a Hallowe'en party on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> Oct in our nursery and children can come to nursery dressed up that day. Looking forward to lots of tricks or treats, special snacks that day and lots of fun.





# Ongoing Improvement



We are constantly evaluating our work and looking at ways to continue to improve. As such, your views, opinions and suggestions are important to us. Please use this sheet to contribute your views about our Settling-In reports and Meetings. Please give this sheet to a member of our nursery staff or hand in to our school office.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parental Name \_\_\_\_\_

	Yes	Unsure	No
1. Settling In Meeting was informative			
2. Settling In Meeting was well timed			
3. Settling In Meeting gave me a clearer picture of the nursery expectations.			
4. Settling In Report was informative			
5. Settling In Report was well timed			
6. Settling In Report gave me a clearer picture of the nursery expectations.			
7. Is there anything else you would like to know about at this stage? (If yes, please provide details in box below)			
Please provide any other comments you would like to make about either or both of these. Your feedback is important to us and helps us to evaluate the effectiveness of our service.			

## Parent Helper in our Nursery

Please consider becoming more involved in our nursery, we would love to have you. If you can give a small amount of time (or larger amount!) we want to know!

I would like to help on (please circle all that apply)      Mon      Tues      Wed      Thurs      Fri

Please indicate the most suitable time for you \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the skills you have or the particular area (if any) you would like to help with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to nursery by Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Oct**