

# Nursery



# Newsletter

May 2017

Summer Term



**Summer Term at Stockbridge Nursery is well and truly underway and we are already enjoying a busy and exciting final term of the year.**



We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all

the **new families** who have joined us this term. Since our return to school after the Easter break, we have enrolled 1 child to our morning class and 13 to our afternoon class, taking us to rolls of 40 and 39 respectively. Our experienced nursery team are doing all we can to support all our children during this time of change and our new starts are settling in very well.



We will be using picture books, including 'Odd Dog Out' and 'Only One You' to stimulate lots of discussion about our unique personalities and qualities as we get to know each other and prepare to move on to school. We will be thinking about everyone's different strengths and attributes and learning how to treat ourselves - as well as others - with respect. This links with our whole-school **Building Resilience topic, 'Respect Yourself'**. This theme will underpin our discussions and activities this term as we settle our new children and begin to prepare our pre-schoolers for the move to school.



It is particularly important during this term of settling and transition, that children **arrive for nursery during our designated 'Soft Start' times**. Our attendance registers need to be completed by 9am and 1pm, when we gather children for Keyworker or whole group time. Arrivals after this time are disruptive and can unsettle children.

Arrival times Reminder:

**AM - arrive between 8.30 and 9.00**

**PM - arrive between 12.20 and 12.50**



After a long wait, our nursery garden development is finally happening and children are benefitting from use of the new, very popular **sand area**. As in most schools and nurseries across the city, this is an open sand pit. Research has shown that covering sandpits can lead to a build-up of bacteria and the development of potentially dangerous spores. Our janitor checks the sand-pit each morning as part of our garden Risk Assessment and nursery staff rake the sand before each session. Waterproof trousers will be provided when the sand is wet so that children can enjoy the benefits of sand play in all weathers.



**Many thanks to parents and grandparents who have helped us in the garden** during the recent development. In particular, thanks to those who helped to dismantle the old decking, move heavy bags of sand and soil and replant the willows. Your ongoing support is much appreciated.



With money from parent fund-raising, **we have bought a variety of plants** to add colour, shape and scent to the garden. We have started planting these and are, of course, making sure that the children are fully involved in the process. We are looking forward to seeing our outdoor space continue to improve this term with children planting vegetables and seeds and doing more to encourage birds and butterflies into the garden. We have also ordered a garden shelter/ playhouse for the children which is due to arrive soon.



Many thanks to all parents and carers who have contributed - or bought - delicious home baking at our **Garden Gatherings**. Through selling your cakes, you have raised £149.50 - £65.50 in March and £84.00 in April. This money was put straight back into our garden, being used to buy our new plants. If you want to be involved in future Garden Gatherings, they run from **11.40 until 12.15** in the nursery garden on the **last Friday of each month** and are run by am and pm parents and carers. Look out for sign-up sheets on the parent noticeboard.



We look forward to discussing your child's progress and next steps at our **Parent Consultations** next week. If you haven't already signed up for an appointment with your child's keyworker, please do so. We do not hold consultations for our April/ May starters, as each parent has just had an Induction Meeting. We are, as always, available to discuss any issues at the start/end of each session.



Thanks to the majority of parents for prompt payment of **Snack/ Nursery Fund money** which was due this week. We rely on this money to buy your child's daily snack as well as small resources for the children. If you have not paid, please do so **by Wednesday 17 May**, which is my deadline for banking the money.



This year, I have arranged to take our **preschool morning group on a special trip to Our Dynamic Earth** at the end of term. They will travel by coach and will have a tour followed by a special dinosaur-themed workshop.



The **afternoon group will be having a special Zoolab visit** to the nursery, including a story-telling session based on *The Gruffalo* and an animal handling session. Further details to follow.



Please remember to follow what your child is doing in Nursery on their **Online Learning Journal**. Your own comments in response to our observations are also very much appreciated. You can also add your child's personal achievements, such as swimming certificates, dance shows etc. via the 'Wider Achievements' tab.

## OUR LEARNING ACTIVITIES – 'Changes'



We will be continuing to think about the **changing of the seasons and weather** as we move from Spring to Summer. We will link this to weather and climate in Africa as part of work with our partner school in Malawi. We will also be learning more about plants, watching them change and grow, as we continue to work in and develop the nursery garden.



Over the next few weeks, we will begin to focus on the topic of **Life Cycles**. We will be welcoming some wriggly and 'very hungry' guests into the nursery to watch them grow and change! After our recent frog encounter, the children have been very interested in all things froggy and we hope to have some tadpoles with us very soon. Our Maths focus will be on measurement and we will be doing lots of activities involving measuring and weighing.



The children have been very interested in worms, snails and insects in our changing garden, so we will develop this, with a **minibeast** theme. We will do bug surveys and observe the visitors to our bug hotel. We are also hoping to attract some birds into the garden and tally the species of birds visiting our outdoor space.



There has been a lot of interest in playing with balls in the garden and we are lucky to have Miss Winton running tennis sessions on Tuesday mornings for the next few weeks. We will also be working with the children to prepare them for our **Sports Day** which is planned for the last week of term.



Throughout the term, the children will be given many opportunities to develop their **literacy** and **numeracy** skills through stories, games, creative play, problem solving, drama, music and art and craft activities.



A copy of this term's **Medium Term Plan**, describing our intended curriculum experiences and outcomes in more detail, is available on the Parents' Noticeboard.



We respond to the children's interests and ideas, adapting our plans accordingly. Our observations of the children's play and conversations are noted and discussed by staff at our weekly planning meetings. This allows us to provide the children with a range of activities which extend their learning, providing depth and challenge for our learners.



Please ensure children are prepared for the unpredictable weather. As it heats up, please ensure that **sunscreen** is applied and sunhats are provided.



### OUR NURSERY TEAM

- **Ms Jill Fraser** : Class Teacher, Keyworker for Whale group (Monday-Friday, Tuesday admin)
- **Miss Gill McGhee** : Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Starfish group. (Monday-Friday)
- **Mrs Caroline Munro**: Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Seahorses (Monday- Friday)
- **Miss Karen Thomson**: Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Dolphin group. (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, alternate Fridays)
- **Mrs Denise Stewart** : Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Dolphin group (Wednesday, Thursday, alternate Fridays)
- **Miss Stephanie Robertson**: Early Years Practitioner (Monday and Tuesday pm)
- **Mrs Elaine Mitchell** : Class teacher (Tuesday am)
- **Mrs Odette Bell** : Learning Support Assistant (Monday, Tuesday am)
- **Mr Robert Guyan**: Learning Support Assistant (Monday – Friday am)



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

#### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May:

**Parents' Action Group Meeting 10.45.** A chance to meet with myself, Faye Calder-Kelly and nursery parents to air your views and get involved in the Nursery over tea and biscuits.

#### Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May:

**Parent Consultations.**

#### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May:

**Victoria Day holiday. No nursery.**

#### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May:

**Garden Gathering**

#### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June:

**Garden Gathering**

#### Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June:

**Sports Day** - morning and afternoon session (weather permitting). Please come along and join in the fun and games. (details to follow)

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June:

**Dynamic Earth Trip (am children), visit from Zoolab (pm children).** Details to follow.

#### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June:

**Graduation for preschool children.**

Parents of pre-schoolers are invited to come along to celebrate the children's time at Stockbridge Nursery. (Bring tissues!)

**Teddy Bears' Picnic for afternoon group**

**Last day of term – Happy Holidays!**



In order to keep up to date with news and information, please check the **Parents' Noticeboard** - located in the nursery entrance - regularly.

**Enjoy the final term!**

**Jill Fraser, Nursery class teacher.**

