

Nursery Newsletter

September 2017



Autumn Term



to a new nursery year! I would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our families – both those returning after the summer break and those who are new to Stockbridge Nursery. We have been so pleased at how well all the children have settled in over the past few weeks. It is fantastic to see them following our nursery routines and playing and learning so well as they explore the nursery and garden together.



We were all very excited to see how much the plants in the garden had grown over the summer break! The children have really enjoyed harvesting and eating the peas, potatoes and tomatoes they planted in June. We used our senses to explore the vegetables and the experience became a springboard to discuss farming and where our food comes from. We will harvest our beans next and we will also use our beautiful sunflowers as a starting point for exploring measure and height.



Many thanks to Skye's mum who kindly volunteered to look after our garden over the holiday. She also came in and did some much-needed weeding at the start of the term. We really appreciate her help!

We rely on parents to help maintain the nursery garden. Please let a member of the Nursery Team know if you would like to get involved.



Outdoor learning is a very important part of the Early Years Curriculum and we encourage the children to spend time playing and learning in the Nursery Garden every day. **Please ensure your child is prepared for changeable weather. A waterproof jacket and**

suitable outdoor footwear is essential. Also ensure that your child is not wearing outdoor clothes with tricky fastenings - no shoes with laces please!

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After an interesting discussion, the children decided on **5 Golden Rules** which we have all agreed to follow in the nursery. These are:

1. Be kind and gentle.
2. Look after things in the nursery.
3. Share toys and take turns.
4. Always have good manners.
5. Always try your best

We will refer to these rules regularly in nursery; feel free to use them at home too.



With the change in the seasons, we will be doing lots of **Autumn** related activities in nursery, including Autumn Treasure Hunts, leaf art and hedgehog craft. Look out for our Autumn activities on the seasonal display board in the snack room.



Our main topic this term is **Myself and My Family**. This will provide children with many play and learning opportunities across the curriculum. Children will explore their own uniqueness, their feelings, likes and dislikes. We will also be looking at families and friends as the children form their own friendships within their nursery class. We will use discussion, games, books and stories, roleplay and drama to enrich their learning.



Our **Literacy** focus in Talking and Listening will be to encourage children to take turns at carpet time and we will run 'Show and Tell' and sharing sessions later in this term, encouraging children to bring a favourite special item from home to share with their keyworker

group.

In Reading, we will be looking at stories related to our topic and we will also be continuing to use conker voting to choose books for story time each day. Later in the term we will also be sharing our favourite books with our friends in the nursery. Our Writing will focus on beginning to form some letters from our names for our afternoon class and writing our names for our morning class. Children learn such skills at different paces and we will encourage each child according to their own next steps.



Our **Numeracy** focus will be on measuring and comparing our heights in a variety of ways. We will also be making pictograms and charts showing eye and hair colour and doing surveys of favourite colours and things.



As part of our whole-school 'Stockbridge Counts' maths initiative, all children will be focussing on the red band of the rainbow – 'counting forwards and backwards'. As always in the nursery, we will be taking every opportunity to count, whether it is counting buttons as we get ready to go outside, counting legs on spiders or doing a 'count-down to play' after Gather Time.



Each term we have a whole-school focus on Building Resilience. This term, our focus is to 'Challenge Your Mindset' and as part of our Myself topic, we will be encouraging children to try new activities and experiences new things, developing a growth mindset. We will use the book, 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds and other stories to support this and reinforce the idea with games drama and music.



A copy of this term's possible learning activities, in mind-map form, is available for you to view on the Parents' Noticeboard. Please be aware that our plans are subject to change, as we always respond to the children's current interests and ideas, adapting our plans accordingly. Our observations of the children's play and conversations are noted on the leaves of our **Ideas Tree** by the window in the snack room 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.

So far this term, we have planned firework art, drama and music activities after some children mentioned seeing or hearing the Festival Fireworks. We are currently in the midst of an impromptu spider topic after Miss Mcghee found an enormous spider in the snack room sink! We also listened to some new baby stories and had lots of dolly play after the birth of Leo's new baby sister, Ava, at the start of term. **Congratulations to Leo and his family!**

At Stockbridge Nursery, we greatly value the strong links we have with our families. Our staff are always available to talk to you about any concerns or issues that you might have. A **Suggestion Box** is located in the cloakroom and we welcome any of your ideas.



Our **Parents' Action Group** (PAG) meets at least once a term in our annexe General Purpose space. This is a chance for parents and carers to meet to discuss any issues regarding Nursery and plan fund raising events with myself and Headteacher, Faye Calder Kelly over coffee and biscuits. See diary dates..



Many thanks to all parents and carers who contributed or bought home baking from our August bake sale. £45 was raised and we plan to buy den building equipment with the money – thanks again. Parent-run Garden Gatherings took place on the last Friday of each month during last Spring and Summer term. All the money raised went towards buying items for the garden. Most of the plants, the bench, the new heuristic play cupboard and the Investigation Station table were all bought entirely from money raised through the bake sales. With summer almost gone, outdoor bake sales may not be so appealing, but there may be other ways we can keep funds coming in to develop our nursery. If you have any fundraising ideas, please put them in the suggestion box or discuss them at the next PAG meeting (date to be confirmed).

£ In line with all council run schools, we are now a cash free nursery, with all money being paid to the school through ParentPay. By now you have hopefully received your setting up instructions. Once you are registered, you will be able to pay snack money for the term.

The cost is 50p per day and allows us to provide a snack for your child each day. It also helps to pay for end of term parties, gifts etc. Costings for the 8 weeks from August to October are as follows:

5 sessions per week: £20

4 sessions per week: £16

3 sessions per week: £12

I understand there have been some problems with the initial set-up, but once you are registered, future payments for snack, trips, etc. should be very simple.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Close gates and doors when you enter or leave the nursery.
- Do not allow children to ride bikes or scooters within the school grounds and ensure they are not left in nursery.
- Leave buggies outside the nursery door.
- Call the school and press 1 to report an absence, leaving a message including your child's name, class (nursery am/pm) and the reason for the absence.
- For planned absences, please let the member of staff on the door know and if this is more than 2 days, please fill in a yellow holiday slip.
- Arrive at nursery within the first half hour of the session (by 10am/ 12.50pm).

 Our Nursery staff work hard and our only break is the 40 minutes between the morning and afternoon sessions. In this time, we

clear up, have lunch and set up for the afternoon. Similarly, at the end of the day, staff have very little time. We therefore respectfully request that you support us by:

- **Picking up your child promptly - doors open at 11.30am and 3.20pm**
- **Leaving the nursery garden by 11.40am and 3.30pm for afternoon.**
- **Ensuring your child does not play on nursery equipment at pick up time.**

Although the garden closes immediately after the sessions, the main school has an open playground which you may wish to make use of in the afternoon. The nursery garden has been opened to all families once a month from 11.30 – 12.15 for our bake sales, which we are happy to continue if parents wish to run them. Many thanks you for your co-operation and support.



PLEASE REMEMBER CHECK THE PARENT NOTICEBOARD IN THE ENTRANCE FOR KEY DATES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 18 Sept: Autumn holiday - no nursery

Wed 20 Sept: Morning class trip!

(more details to follow...)

Fri 22 Sept: 10.45am Nursery Coffee

Morning / Parent Action Group

Fri 13 Oct: Last day of half term

Tues 24 Oct: First day back after half term



The Nursery Team:

- Ms. Jill Fraser (Class Teacher Monday- Friday, Wednesday admin)
- Ms. Gill McGhee (Early Years Practitioner Monday – Friday)
- Mrs. Caroline Munro (Early Years Practitioner Monday – Friday)
- Ms. Karen Thomson (Early Years Practitioner Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings, alternate Fridays)
- Mrs. Denise Stewart (Early Years Practitioner Wednesday, Thursday, alternate Fridays)
- Mrs. Odette Bell (Learning Support Assistant Monday- Friday mornings)
- Mrs. Laura Smith (Parent helper – Friday mornings)
- Faye Calder-Kelly (Headteacher and Nursery Manager)

We will be welcoming 2 student teachers, Rebecca Bamforth and Shauna Dwyer, to the nursery from 8 September – 6 October.

Wishing you a fantastic term! Jill Fraser

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