

Nursery Newsletter

October 2017



Winter Term



A very warm welcome to all our families to the Winter Term at Stockbridge Nursery! This is always a particularly fun-packed term, starting with spooky Halloween activities and party, continuing to the anticipation of Advent and ending with the excitement and magic of Christmas celebrations.



It was lovely to welcome the children back after October break and see them looking so happy and settled in the nursery environment. We began our term learning about **Diwali**. The children explored the Hindu Festival of Light through stories roleplay and a variety of activities, including colouring Rangoli patterns, outdoor painting with spices and making colourful candle holders called Divas using clay.



Our nursery is now looking suitably spooky and the children are taking part in some exciting **Halloween** activities. It's great to see them dressing up in the haunted house corner and having fun with role play and Halloween crafts. Outside, potion making and sloppy slime has been particularly popular as well as spider's web spotting and playing in the spooky shed. We are now looking forward to dressing up for our Halloween party when we will be playing ghoulish games and dooking for apples. Zachary's mum has kindly offered to provide face painting at the parties too – Thank you!



Many thanks to all who contributed to our **'Pennies for Mpeni'** appeal. The children enjoyed putting coins in our collection tube and dressing up on the last day of term. We collected £65.54, which will go towards our whole-school appeal to raise funds to build a new school building for partner school in Malawi.



We think it is important to encourage the children to share and think of others, so our next charity event will be in aid of **Children in Need**. We will be asking for a £1 donation for your child to bring in their favourite soft toy to share in fun activities and a Teddy Bears' Picnic on Friday 17th November. We will also be making some yummy chocolate treats to sell from 11am to help raise money for this important charity.



Our **Nursery Garden** is such an important and well-used area of the nursery and it has been fantastic to see our outside space develop and improve over the last year. Many thanks to those parents who have helped with planting and general maintenance. In particular, thank you to Skye's mum and Roan's dad for their ongoing help and support. If you would like to get involved in helping the garden, please sign up on the sheet provided on the Parent Noticeboard.



We want to make the most of our garden even as the weather gets cooler. Please remember to provide your child with footwear and coats which are suitable for cold, wet weather. We are trying to encourage children to put their outdoor clothing on independently and, with this in mind, please support us by avoiding tricky fastenings, such as laces in shoes. Labelling clothing and shoes with your child's name is important, as is ensuring that indoor shoes are put in your child's bag at the end of the session. Any unlabelled items are placed in the basket, or box for small items, in the cloakroom. Please check lost property regularly.

OUR LEARNING ACTIVITIES



After our Diwali and Halloween activities, we will be incorporating

Bonfire Night and road safety into our learning as part of our Keeping Myself Safe topic. Later in November, we will be focussing on favourite books and stories and visiting the library as part of Scottish Book Week. Our learning will have a Scottish focus for St Andrews Day at the end of the month.



In December, we will start looking at seasonal change, with winter themed activities. We will also begin to think about Christmas, learning about the Nativity and looking at celebrations around the world, including Mpeni School in Malawi. We will be doing lots of Christmas craft, singing songs and enjoying the excitement and anticipation of Advent. Our busy term will end with Christmas parties and short festive performances for you to enjoy.



Throughout the term, the children will be given many opportunities to develop their Literacy and Numeracy skills through stories, songs, games, creative play and problem-solving activities. We will also continue with our Friday morning drama, music and movement sessions. We will focus on recognising and managing our emotions and mindfulness in our whole school Building Resilience topic, Take a Moment.

The nursery staff meet weekly as a team to plan responsively, considering children's current play activities, interests and learning needs. We use our Learning Tree to help us record observations and plan next steps. Our learning is regularly recorded in our 'Talking, Thinking Class Book', which is available for you to look at. You will also find a copy of our mind map plan for the term and details of our whole-school Stockbridge Counts focus on the parent noticeboard.



Please check your child's Online Learning Journal regularly and look at the entries with your child if possible, to spark discussions about their learning. Staff really appreciate your comments on the OLLJs, as they show us that you are accessing our observations. Please note that the OLLJ is not a forum to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's nursery experience or learning.



Should you wish to discuss any issues regarding your child, please speak to a member of staff at drop off time and arrange a suitable time to meet. You will also have the opportunity to discuss your child's learning with their key worker at Parent Consultations in November. Please do not contact any member of staff directly by email as we are not always able to access our messages. Any email communications should be sent via the school office account: admin@stockbridge.edin.sch.uk.



During the winter months, children are even more susceptible to illness. We do all we can to reinforce hygienic practice, particularly handwashing, in the nursery. If your child is ill, you may find it helpful to refer to the recently updated 'Recommended Periods of Absence' document, available on the school website. For chickenpox, which is currently doing the rounds in the main school, children should be kept at home as soon as you see the first blister and only return when all spots have scabbed over. In cases of sickness and diarrhoea, children must stay at home for 48 hours after the last incident. Remember to phone the school office and leave a message on the Absence Line if your child can't attend nursery. The number is: **0131 332 6109**.



Our parent-led bake sales give parents and children an opportunity to socialise in the nursery garden on the last Friday of each month, whilst raising money for the nursery. We have been able to pay for plants, a bench and a storage cupboard in the garden. The money raised in September provided hanging baskets, indoor plants and paid for a yoga workshop for our pre-school class. I want you to know how much we appreciate your efforts, and wish to thank Elodie's mum, in particular, for her efforts in organising the bake sales. It is perhaps getting a bit chilly for these garden gatherings, but please keep an eye on the parent noticeboard in case parents decide to brave the elements!



NURSERY SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Please use the Dean Bank door when entering and leaving the nursery. If you are a morning parent and have a child who attends P1-7, you are permitted to use the

door in the main school playground at drop off. Similarly, afternoon parents who also have a child in P1-7 may use the gate in the main playground at pick up time.

- Remember to close all doors behind you.
- Support your child in registering by finding their name and putting on the magnet board.
- If someone other than the parents/carers named at your induction session is picking up, please write this on the sheet at drop off time. Staff will only allow children to leave with a different adult – even if this is another nursery parent – if it is recorded on the sheet.
- Please leave the nursery garden as soon as you have picked up your child.

Many thanks for your support.



At Stockbridge Nursery, we greatly value the strong links we have with our families. It is always lovely to have parents and carers in to help with activities. We have had parents come in to lead a wide range of sessions such as arts/crafts, baking, story-telling, cookery and Spanish. This term, we have introduced 'Family Friday' allowing you to book a slot to run a nursery activity. See the sign up sheet on the Parent Noticeboard if you are interested.



Just a reminder about our session times... We have a 'soft start' policy, allowing children to arrive within the first half hour of their session. If children arrive later than this, during our Gather or Group time, it can be unsettling for the children and it also delays the registration process. We therefore ask you make sure that children have self-registered using your child's name magnet by 9.00am / 12.50pm. If your child is going to be late or if they are unable to attend a session, please contact us by phone to let us know. Also, as nursery staff have only a half hour break for lunch between sessions, we ask am parents to pick up children and leave the nursery garden promptly. Thanks for your cooperation with this.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Fri 10th November: Parent Action Group Coffee Morning 10.45am

w/b 13th November: Keyworker Consultations (sign up for an appointment in the nursery entrance)

Fri 17th November: Children in Need – pay £1 for your child's favourite teddy to join their class.

w/b 20th November: Road Safety Week;

w/b 27th November: Scottish Book Week

Sat 2nd December: School Christmas Fair.

Tue 19th December: Class Christmas shows.

Thur 21st December: Class Christmas parties and last day of term.

Tues. 9th January 2018: Start of new term



Please check the parent noticeboard regularly for further news, events and information.



The Nursery Team:

- Ms Jill Fraser - Class Teacher
- Miss Gill McGhee - Early Years Practitioner (EYP)
- Mrs Caroline Munro - EYP
- Miss Karen Thomson - EYP Mon, Tues, Wed am, alternate Fri.
- Mrs Denise Stewart - EYP Wed, Thurs, alternate Fri.
- Mrs Odette Bell – Learning Support Assistant, am
- Mrs Laura Smith – Parent volunteer, Friday mornings.

Wishing you all a fantastic term!

Jill Fraser (Nursery Class Teacher)