

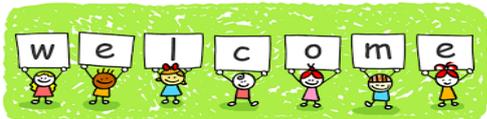
# Nursery



# Newsletter

April 2018

Summer Term



... to the **Summer Term at Stockbridge Nursery!** The children have all arrived back refreshed and full of energy at the start of the final term of the session. After an Easter holiday that felt more like November, it seems that summer may have finally arrived (fingers crossed!) and the children have been enjoying lots of learning experiences and explorative play in our nursery garden.

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES



Along with the rest of Stockbridge Primary School, we began the term with lots of learning experiences relating to science, technology, engineering and maths as part of **STEM Week**. The children had lots of fun doing science experiments involving colour mixing, ice and volcanoes. Some were also using real tools at our new woodwork bench as well as doing lots of building and constructing with blocks inside and loose parts in the garden.



We ended the week with a visit from a microbiologist to our morning class. He told us about germs, showing us amazing images of the bacteria he can see with his special microscope. The children loved the hand-washing experiment he did with them, where an ultraviolet light showed them the areas they had missed when washing their hands. It really was a great way to drive home the importance of hand

washing to the boys and girls.



Continuing with our science focus, we welcomed a large number of tadpoles into the nursery last week. There was great excitement when Skye's mum brought them in (thank you Lucy). We were pleased that the children respected the new arrivals, remembering not to put their hands into the water (too much) or shake the tank about (too vigorously)! Over the coming weeks, we will observe the tadpoles as they grow and change as part of a **Life Cycles** topic which will be our focus throughout May.



In June we will be thinking about **Transition** with our preschool children, as they prepare to move on to primary school. Our transition project will use the Julia Donaldson story '**The Snail and the Whale**' as a springboard for some fun learning activities, leading on to a '**Memory Jar**' activity for children to complete over the summer break.



Our afternoon children will have a **Mini Beast** focus in June, using 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' as a key story. I am sure there will be lots of insect hunting and observing of the visitors to the bug hotel in our nursery garden.



The arrival of the tadpoles has sparked an interest in growth and size amongst the children. We have responded by having a **Measure** focus, providing children with a variety of weighing and measuring equipment in

the nursery and garden. This will encourage the children to incorporate measure into their play. During keyworker times we will develop children's skills and knowledge and discuss the relative size and weight of people, animals and objects.



Alongside this, we will be thinking about **Addition and Subtraction**, which is our termly 'Stockbridge Counts' whole school focus. We will encourage children to use real items to begin simple adding and taking away within their play activities.



Our whole school **Building Resilience** topic this term is '**Get Active**'. This theme will underpin learning activities this term as we think about how being active can make us feel happy as well as sharing our hobbies and interests with a 'Show and Tell' session. We will also encourage children to try new activities, even if it means taking a risk.



A copy of this term's **Planning Mindmap** showing our possible learning experiences is available on the Parents' Noticeboard and in the summer term 'Big Learning Book' which you can find in the snack room.



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 experiences which extend their learning, providing depth and challenge for our learners.



**Many thanks to parents who have helped us in the garden** over the past months; it really is looking good at the moment. In particular, thank you to Lucy who is taking a lead in

helping in the nursery garden, coming on a weekly basis, to maintain it and do planting with the children. If you would like to be involved, see the notice on the parent board or talk to Lucy, mum of Skye from the morning class.



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 money that has been used to buy resources for our garden and nursery. Our most recent sale in April raised over £60. The exact amount and what the money has been spent on will be displayed on the parent board next week. 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. We are very grateful, as always, for your support.

## !! IMPORTANT REMINDERS !!



It is important that children **arrive for nursery during our designated 'Soft Start' times**. Our attendance registers should be completed by 9.00am and 1.00pm, when we lock the gate and open the garden for children to go outside. If you are running late and find the gate locked, you may have to phone the nursery to be let in as the bell cannot always be heard. Thank you for your cooperation.



Our **Nursery Fund** money pays for a daily snack for the children, as well as small resources, end of term gifts etc. Since the compulsory change-over from cash to online payments via ParentPay, many of you have had difficulty in paying this money which has caused much frustration. Most of you are now on the system but there is still a large amount unpaid from this

term and from previous terms. **Please check your account and make any payments as soon as possible.** If you are still experiencing difficulty with the system, please write your details on the list on the parent board and you will be contacted by Odette Bell or Laura Smith, who will help you to iron out any issues. Many thanks, in advance, for your support and patience with this.



Please ensure children are prepared for the unpredictable weather. A **waterproof jacket** is still necessary so that children can enjoy outdoor play every day. As the weather warms up, please ensure that **sunscreen** is applied before the session as staff are not permitted to do this.



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 NURSERY TEAM**

- **Ms Jill Fraser** : Class Teacher, Keyworker for Whale group (Monday-Friday, Wednesday admin)
- **Miss Gill McGhee** : Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Starfish group. (Monday-Friday)
- **Mrs Caroline Munro**: Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Seahorse group (Monday- Friday)
- **Miss Karen Thomson**: Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Dolphin group. (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday am, alternate Fridays)
- **Mrs Denise Stewart** : Early Years Practitioner, Keyworker for Dolphin group (Wednesday, Thursday, alternate Fridays)

- **Mrs Odette Bell** : Learning Support Assistant (Monday-Friday am)
- **Mr Mark Geraghty**: Learning Support Assistant (Monday-Friday am)
- **Mrs Laura Smith**: Parent volunteer (Friday am)



#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

##### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May:**

May day holiday – nursery closed

##### **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May:**

Teachers' In Service Day – nursery closed

##### **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May:**

Parent Consultations. Please sign up on the sheets at entrance.

##### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May:**

Victoria Day holiday – nursery closed

##### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May:**

Garden Gathering and bake sale

##### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May:**

Sports Day – morning class. Families invited – details to follow.

##### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June:**

Garden Gathering- last one of session.

##### **Thursday 28<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 – every day.

**Enjoy the final term!**

**Jill Fraser, Nursery class teacher.**