

Nursery Newsletter

August 2018



Autumn Term



I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our children and families as we begin a new year in Stockbridge Nursery. Over the past two weeks we have already welcomed four new children into our morning class and fourteen new children into our afternoon class. We have been so pleased at how well both our returning - and our new - children are settling in. It is fantastic to see them following our nursery routines and playing and learning so well together as they explore the nursery and garden.



Over the summer, the nursery has undergone a transformation, with fresh paint and new flooring throughout. Our new neutral décor aims to create a calm, inviting space for the children. We hope you will enjoy watching the interior develop as we add new items and create displays with the children, adding colour and interest to the space.



We were all very excited to see how much the plants in the garden had grown over the summer break! The children have particularly enjoyed measuring the beautiful sunflowers they planted before the summer. We have also been investigating the flower heads, using tweezers to collect seeds which we will keep to plant next summer.



Many thanks to Ella Evans' mum who has kindly volunteered to take over looking after our nursery garden. Look out for a sign-up sheet on the parent noticeboard over the coming weeks, where you can volunteer to come in and help maintain our outdoor space with the children. We really appreciate your help!

Outdoor learning is an integral part of the Early Years Curriculum and we encourage the children to spend time in the nursery garden every day to play and learn.



Please ensure your child is prepared for changeable weather.

In order to enjoy outdoor play, please provide them with a **waterproof jacket** and **appropriate footwear**. In order to encourage the children to be independent please ensure that your child is **not wearing clothes with tricky fastenings - no shoes with laces please!**



There has been much discussion about the children's summer adventures, so I have provided a home learning sheet for you to fill in with your child. Use photos, postcards, drawings or words to decorate the sunshine and children will have the opportunity to share their summer memories with their class. If you didn't get a sheet, more are available on the parent noticeboard. Remember, **as with all home learning tasks in nursery, only complete this if your child shows an interest - it is not compulsory.**



Several children have had birthdays over the summer break and since the start of term and we have been celebrating with visits from our birthday puppet, Feather, who brings our birthday cushion, birthday hat and a selection of birthday stories for the birthday boy or girl to choose from at story time. **Please do not bring sweets, cakes or any other items in on your child's birthday;** we will celebrate each child's special day in the same way and make sure they have lots of fun with their friends in the nursery.



The recent birthday celebrations have really sparked children's interest, and this has influenced our learning in the nursery over the first few weeks. We have been making birthday cakes in the dough and sand areas, where we have added cake cases and candles to encourage counting. Children have also had lots of fun wrapping 'presents' while developing their fine motor skills by cutting and sticking. Children have been making cards and bunting and taking part in birthday party roleplay in our home corner. We have also been thinking about how we grow and change as we get older and measuring how tall we are.



With the change in the seasons, we will be beginning lots of **Autumn** related activities in nursery in September, including autumn treasure hunts, leaf art and hedgehog craft. Look out for our autumn activities on the seasonal display board in the welcome room.



Our main topic this term will be **Myself and My Family**. This will provide children with many 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. As children share their holiday memories, they are developing confidence to speak in front of the group and also learning to listen to others.

In **reading**, we will be following the children's recent interest in rhyme, looking at our favourite nursery rhymes, exploring them at story time and through music, drama and movement. We will also be encouraging children to recognise their name as they find their name label in the cloakroom and on the welcome table.

Our **writing** will focus on encouraging mark-making, which will range from beginning to

form some shapes resembling letters for some children, to perfecting writing their name and other familiar words for others. Remember that 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 perhaps even a survey 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 group time.



Each term we have a whole-school focus aimed to build children's resilience. This term, our topic is 'Make a Difference' and we will be thinking about how, by contributing in small ways, we can make a difference to individuals, our community and our world. In particular, we will be focussing on sustainability, thinking about reducing, reusing and recycling our waste.



A copy of this term's possible learning activities is available for you to view on the cloakroom noticeboard in mind map form. 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 recorded 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.



At Stockbridge Nursery, we greatly value the strong links we have with our families. A member of staff will always greet you in the welcome

room. Please feel free to look at our Thinking and Learning books and respond to our **monthly parent question** by putting a button in the appropriate jar. 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 fund raising ideas with myself and Acting Headteacher, Kathryn Collier, over coffee and biscuits.



Many thanks to all parents and carers who contributed or bought home baking from our August bake sale. The money raised went towards buying a basket for children to snuggle in for our new reading area. Parent-run Garden Gatherings took place on the last Friday of each month last session and all the money raised went towards buying items for the garden or nursery. 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.



In line with all council run schools, we are cash free, with all money being paid to the school through ParentPay. 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 and 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

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.
- If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they must not return to nursery for at least 48 hours.
- 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). Gates will be closed then.



Our Nursery staff work hard and only have 40 minutes between the morning and afternoon sessions in which to clear up, have lunch and set up for the afternoon. We therefore respectfully request that you **pick up your child promptly and leave the nursery garden by 11.40 (3.30 for afternoon session). Please do not allow your child play on nursery equipment at pick up time** as we are not insured at this time. Thank you for your co-operation.

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



The Nursery Team:

- Ms. Jill Fraser (Class Teacher Monday-Friday. Wednesday admin)
- Ms. Gill McGhee (Early Years Practitioner)
- Mrs. Caroline Munro (Early Years Practitioner)
- Ms. Karen Thomson (Early Years Practitioner Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday mornings, alternate Fridays)
- Mrs. Denise Stewart (Early Years Practitioner Wednesday, Thursday, alternate Fridays)
- Mrs. Laura Smith (Parent helper – Friday mornings)

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