



Happy New Year – January 2019

(We hope that everyone has applied for their school places.)

## Welcome Back to Nursery's Spring Term

The children had a very successful first term. With winter upon us it is a good opportunity to remind of some of the Nursery routines.

**Nursery routines** – The session starts and concludes with a whole class teaching session on the carpet. The play and explore sessions focuses on collaborative play and the opportunity to work on individual projects. The play is often uninterrupted unless the children are completing an activity with an adult such as a game or craft activity. Children will spend time outdoors so will need to have a warm coat. The Spring Term focuses on the first Phase of Phonics within the Letters and Sounds programme. Children will be refining their counting skills and exploring numerals through games and counting songs. We have already learnt some early phonics through interactive whiteboard games and 'Jolly Phonics' songs. We will continue to explore phonics through listening tasks and games, such as 'I-spy.' There are seven aspects to Phase One and information can be found on the following websites.



<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1.html>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/WhatIsPhonics.htm>

**Snack** – The children have really gained in independence during the Autumn Term's snack sessions and have enjoyed trying different foods. They enjoy the responsibility of counting the cups that are required, cleaning the tables etc. The children are becoming more confident at pouring drinks with jugs of water available throughout the session.



**Cooking** Children have really enjoyed opportunities to prepare ingredients and try new foods. Cooking tasks are also excellent for building muscles, hand eye coordination and following instructions. Due to the cost of cooking a donation of £2 per term is requested. Please send the money in a sealed envelope with your child's name written on the front. Please hand to a member of the Nursery staffing team. Sometimes the food will be eaten during nursery sessions and sometimes it will be sent home.

**Being independent** – The children try very hard to be independent. With winter upon us, it is evident that the children do try and fasten their own coats and practise really does make perfect! Naming belongings is a big help in supporting children to take care of their belongings (especially as they all have similar sunhats and gloves!) It is recommended that children establish a routine of storing their hats and gloves in their bags.



Just a reminder that some clothing can hinder their independent toileting efforts, such as tight jeans and belts.

**Winter boots and wellies** – the children do require sensible footwear for cold and wet days but these are often not ideal for their indoor 'Play and Explore' activities. Children can also find boots uncomfortable when sitting on the carpet. Please change the children into shoes or slippers on entry but leave any outdoor footwear by their coat so they can change shoes if choosing to play outdoors.

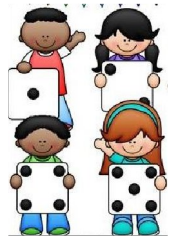


**Nursery listening rules** – we have four prompts to support good listening routines. The listening lights are turned on to indicate a whole class teaching session. The children are reminded that they need their listening ears, listening lips (not talking), listening eyes (looking at the speaker) and listening fingers (not touching anything.) This term we will be completing regular 'white sheet tasks', symbolising a focus for discussion with images and artefacts placed on a white sheet. These activities focus on sharing children's own knowledge and ideas but also listening to others and building on their ideas.



**Home/School Learning** – We love to hear about the children's learning at home. Children are always welcome to bring in examples of work from home to share with the class. Parents are also invited to share any achievements on their Tapestry account.

**Maths at home** – In Nursery, we focus on numbers 0-10 by reciting numbers in order, representing numbers using fingers, learning numerals and comparing quantities. We are often asked for advice and ideas to support mathematics at home. Your child will bring home a 'Number Pack' with suggested counting activities, songs and rhymes as well as subitising resources and games. Subitising is the ability to instantaneously recognise the quantity without the need to count them – such as a dice or domino's arrangement of dots. 'Subitising' is a focus for Early Years with lots of resources and activities available to explore number. Mathematical challenges and guidance on supporting mathematical development will be sent home throughout the year.



**Bedtime Story Library** – We want the children to develop a real love for reading. Early reading skills include showing awareness of rhyme and alliteration (e.g. Peppa Pig, Rebecca Rabbit.) We know that a good bedtime routine is beneficial to most households. Bedtime storybooks can play an important role and you are welcome to borrow a book or two from the book boxes in our cloakroom. Simply return the books when you have finished with them. 😊

### **Read a bedtime story**

*Cuddle up for some cosy story time. Your child will love spending time with you, and hearing you give all the character's silly voices. It'll even help him learn new words, and encourage a lifelong love of reading.*

*Give your child a choice of books from a small selection each night. He'll enjoy getting to have his say. You may end up reading the same few books for week or so, but repetition is a key part of your toddler's learning. While it may be a tad frustrating for you, it's great for his development!*

**Class Toy** – Talk underpins all learning in Early Years. The class toy will provide an excellent opportunity for children to develop their speaking and listening skills. The toy will come for an over-night adventure. We want children to be able to retell a simple past event in the correct order so a few notes in the diary can assist staff in offering relevant prompts.

**Volunteer helpers** - if you wish to help in class please speak to Mrs Simmons. This could be a regular commitment or a one-off visit. If you plan to help on a regular basis, then you will ask you to complete an application form and complete a DBS check.

**School pupil details and collection arrangements** - If any of your details change e.g. address, mobile number, your child's medical records etc please inform the office ASAP. Please can you also inform staff or the school office if your child will be collected from nursery by someone other than yourself. We will try our best to familiarise ourselves with the regular collecting adults. If we are unaware of a new face, we will need to get your consent for them to remove your child. This can be embarrassing for staff and collecting adults so please ensure that you keep staff informed of any changes to regular pick-up arrangements. You can call the school office and they can pass on any messages. Safe guarding your children is our main priority. 😊

**Nursery Funded Sessions** – Mrs Barrow coordinates the paperwork for our sessions and any changes in personal circumstances can be discussed with her. The funding forms will need to be completed each term, even if the information remains the same.

**Junk modelling** - the children love to use our 'creation station'. If you have any plastic bottles, cereal boxes etc which are clean and appropriate for junk modelling, then we would be grateful of any arts and craft donations. Please refrain from sending in milk cartons, meat packaging or anything that was containing nuts.

**Toys and Games** - please think of us if you are having a clear out. The Friends of Fairfield Association collect donations for the fair. We also like any donations of unwanted toys, games and role-play outfits that could be used in our hall or outdoor area. We are especially grateful for donations of bikes, helmets, dolls prams etc.

**Arriving at school**- Doors open at 8.40am and staff will meet you at the nursery gate. Children will self-register using their name cards then will sit on the carpet ready for registration. If you arrive late to school, you will need to enter school via the main school entrance so that your child can be entered in the register. If your child is unwell and therefore not attending nursery, can you please contact the school office to let us know.

**Security Arrangements** - please be advised that between sessions, there will be no access to the main school from the Fairfield Avenue entrance. Access will be via High Road West only. The Fairfield Avenue entrance will be locked at 9.10am, opening again for the lunchtime collection.

### Diary Dates

There are opportunities each term for the children to share their learning with you. This term we will have a Spring Festival and a drop-in Easter crafts event. Further details will follow nearer the time. We will request some adult support for our visit to the Library although I am still liaising with the library to find a suitable date.

- Nursery Parent Consultation Meetings ~ Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February / Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February
- HALF TERM W/B Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February
- Library visit ~ To be confirmed
- Stay and Play Easter/Spring Crafts ~ Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March ~ 10:30-11:30, followed by a class story. Ideally, one parent can drop-in to nursery to make some crafts with a Spring theme. Please speak to Mrs Simmons if you have any queries regarding the Stay and Play event.
- Nursery Spring Festival ~ Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April ~ 11am in the school hall (max. of 4 adults per child)

If you have any questions about the Nursery routines, please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Thank you for your continued support.

*The Nursery Team*