



NURSERY NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2 2020

Welcome back everybody! We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing half term. The children have been eager to tell us about their holiday during free play and circle times!

This half term we are delighted to welcome Tiarna McMahon (Miss McMahon) to the Nursery team. Miss McMahon will be joining the Nursery team from the beginning of the half term and then covering my maternity leave.

Our topic this term is...

"Let's Pretend"

We have started the term by discussing our experiences of the theatre, plays and puppets and using this to create a new story telling area in the classroom, providing lots of opportunities to retell stories and experiences. Do talk to your children about any experiences of storytelling, the theatre or puppets they have, so they can share their knowledge. To support the children's storytelling, we will be focusing our learning around three different traditional tales, as detailed further on.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will continue our focus on how to play with others and share. We encourage children to use their 'kind hands' and 'kind words' at all times! One of the books we will focus on is the wonderful "Oh No George!" by Chris Haughton, which will extend our learning in this area. We will also be learning more about each other in our carpet sessions and 'celebrating difference'.

Physical Development

The children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills. We will focus on cutting with scissors, and sticking with glue and tape. In our outdoor sessions we will focus on movement and simple ball skills. We are also encouraging children to be increasingly independent with toileting and dressing. We are teaching the children to put their coats on independently. The children are very proud of themselves when they can do this. Please support their growing independence with toileting and putting on coats etc. at home.

Communication and Language

As well as our new story telling area providing many opportunities for a broader development of language, we will continue with lots of speaking and listening games to

build the children's listening skills, concentration, understanding and confidence when speaking.

As part of our topic we will do a lot of work around traditional tales and retelling them in various ways, focussing on a particular story each week as follows:

Week beginning 2nd November: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Week beginning 16th November: Three Billy Goats Gruff

Week beginning 30th November: The Gingerbread Man

If you have copies please do these read these at home too, and share these with us at school! Children will also explore the books such as 'Whatever Next', 'Billy's Bucket', 'Into the Forest' and 'Each Peach Pear Plum', which encourage them to use their imagination to pretend, and develop traditional tales in unusual ways.

Literacy

We are playing lots of Phase 1 Phonics games which focus on sound differentiation, rhythm and rhyme. We will start to learn letter sounds together, following the Jolly Phonics scheme. We will learn and reinforce a sound a week as follows:

Week beginning Monday 9th November: s

Week beginning Monday 16th November: a

Week beginning Monday 23rd November: t

Week beginning Monday 30th November: i

Week beginning Monday 7th December: p

Week beginning Monday 14th December: n

Although we will also learn the letter names, our focus will be on the letter sounds in order to lay good foundations for the children's reading, so 'sss' as in snake, rather than 'ES'.

The class will start to listen for initial sounds in words to enable their literacy skills to develop. There will be a Learn to Love to Read workshop taking place via video conference at the beginning of December. More information on the workshop will follow soon.

Mathematics

In our number learning we will practice making comparisons between different quantities, and starting to use words like 'a lot' 'more' 'less' and 'fewer'. We will move on from recalling the order of numbers by rote, to secure the children's concept of counting, as well as practising counting with accurate 1:1 correspondence (saying one number name for one object reliably).

In our Shape, Space and Measure work we will continue to look at basic 2D shapes, describe their properties in simple ways and use them appropriately for different tasks. We will practice using and understanding positional language, for instance under, in and on.

Understanding the World and RE

We will encourage children to talk about what they have observed in the world around them. We will start term by learning about Autumn and noticing the changes in the world around us.

The class will be learning about family traditions, as well as learning lots about ways to celebrate Christmas as December gets closer! We will be celebrating Christmas within our class bubble and learning about the Christmas story.

We will turn part of our classroom into a Post Office in the run up to Christmas! Children will be able to practice writing cards and letters and delivering post. We would be very grateful if you could donate any cardboard boxes, envelopes or wrapping paper (from December onwards).

Expressive Art and Design

We have seen some incredible displays of imagination by the children so far! This half term we will plan imaginative play opportunities and a range of art projects linked to our topic "Let's Pretend", such as creating puppets, mask and paintings of characters from traditional tales. We will give the children time to paint characters and objects, focussing on drawing shapes then colouring them in to build up their picture.

In Art we will continue to explore mixing colours. Ms Adams will also be coming into the Nursery every Tuesday to work with the class. This term we will be experimenting with line and shape to create a range of art work linked to our theme 'Let's Pretend', as well as various Christmas projects.

Dates for your diaries:

- **Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 18th, Thursday 19th November from 3:50 - 6:00pm - Progress in Learning Meetings (Parent Teacher Meetings) via Microsoft Teams.** Please make sure you have registered your child's account as soon as possible. More information will be sent home via the Parent Mail system about how to book a time slot.
- **Monday 20th November** - Anti Bullying Day - Odd Socks Day!
- **Friday 18th December** - Last day of term (early finish time of 2.30pm)

Uniform

Please can I ask people to check the Nursery uniform on the website. In particular tights are not permitted, and summer dresses should be worn with socks. In the Early Years this is so that children can be independent with self-care; the tracksuit bottoms are much easier for them.

We are having a few problems with uniform being misplaced. Please make sure all clothes are labelled in an obvious place. Please also check regularly that your child isn't wearing somebody else's uniform by mistake as the children are still learning to put their belongings on their pegs. As the weather gets colder please ensure your child remembers appropriate clothing; we spend a lot of time outside. Please make sure all hats, gloves and scarves are all clearly labelled.

Spare clothing and Donations

If you have any of Nursery's spare clothing, please return it to us as soon as possible. We are completely out of socks and very low on other items such as pants, and plastic bags. If you have any to donate we would be very grateful.

Thank you so much for all your support,

Mrs Davidson, Miss McMahon & Mrs Dias

The Nursery Team