

Glendermott Nursery Unit Newsletter

September 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome to our monthly newsletter which will keep you informed about what is happening each month and tell you how you can become involved in your child's Nursery journey. We value your help and support so that your child will enjoy his/her stay in Nursery and gain the maximum benefit from the learning opportunities this year.

Settling -In

During the month of September, it is all your child's **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**. Successful personal, social and emotional development is critical for young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning. Each child is valued as a member of the nursery and encouraged to develop social skills, self-esteem and confidence in themselves and their ability. Children are taught how to co-operate and play with each other and alongside others, to listen and be able to engage purposefully in their own play and group activities. All achievements are valued and celebrated. We want the children to settle and be happy in Nursery.

Rules and Routines

We will be busy introducing the nursery rules and routines. By following familiar routines your child will become more confident and feel secure and content in nursery. So in the beginning it is lots and lots of repetition and reinforcement.

These new experiences can be hard work and prove challenging so your child may be tired at the end of their Nursery session. During September the staff will also be getting to know each child and helping them to settle happily into their new surroundings. We will do this by observing your child at play. In particular, we will be making notes about:

- initial level of confidence/how they settle
- interactions with peers and adults
- level of independence in self-help skills
- concentration and behaviour
- attention and listening
- speech and language

All this information will help us to identify starting points and plan more effectively for your child's learning journey. We will share their progress with you in the form of an Early Days report in October. The staff are available daily to discuss any new information or concerns you may have about your child. Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Learning in the Nursery

Once the children have all settled in and are more familiar with the rules and daily routines we will be starting our first topic which is **'Myself & My Home'**. This topic will provide many opportunities for learning. Some of these are listed below.

We will be talking about the features on our faces and discussing what they are for. We will be talking about inside and outside of our homes/houses such as the different rooms, the windows and the doors etc. The children will be encouraged to:

- identify each feature on their face
- recognize what we use our eyes for, ears for, etc.
- make faces using different materials and objects
- talk about the things they like doing at home/in the garden/at the park/out shopping/at parties
- name and count the people who live at home
- match furniture/objects to rooms
- talk about family/friends who come to visit
- look at shapes and colours in their environment

and lots, lots more! The learning is endless!

You can support this learning by talking to your child and encouraging him/her to make observations about the world around them at home and in their community. This will help to further enrich their learning experiences and also continue to develop their language and extend their vocabulary.

Our Special Rules

We will consistently repeat and reinforce 'Our Special Rules' to the children in how we behave and expect them to behave. They are short and easy to remember. It is important to avoid the negative so we will not say 'no running' but instead 'we walk inside' or well done for helping, listening, sharing, waiting your turn etc.

- We listen to others
- We share
- We take turns
- We walk inside
- We use our indoor voices
- We say kind words.
- We have kind hands.

To help with our special rules each child has a tub and if they have followed the rules they will receive a pom pom. When they have 5 pom poms in the box they get a special prize

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday
to
Ray

This monthly newsletter is designed to keep parents informed. A copy will also be displayed on the Nursery Notice board and on the school's website for your reference. Please also refer to your Parent Handbook (given out in June) for additional information regarding Nursery procedures and practices.



Developing Early Skills

In Nursery the children are encouraged to be as independent as possible. Some of the skills we will be working on are:

- finding our symbols independently
- hanging up our coats (all by ourselves)
- showing a willingness to take off/put on jumper/coat
- tidying up after play
- listening to others
- sharing and taking turns
- saying please and thank you

As with all learning your input is invaluable. You can help your child by reinforcing these skills at home. We are very much aware that the children will be at their own stage developmentally and this will be our starting point. It is important to reward all efforts with lots of praise and encouragement. Learning in Nursery will be interactive and FUN!!!

Shape

Once the children have settled in, each month we will also be investigating various shapes. We will be matching and sorting these shapes and encouraging the children to look for them in school and at home. Our shape for October will be the circle. Help your child to find circles at home.

Colour

Each month we will be focusing on a colour. A display table will be set-up for the children to bring colour items from home. The items that your child brings in will be returned at the end of the month. Our colours for September and October will be orange and brown. Try to look for opportunities to learn about colours every day.

Stories, Songs & Rhymes

In the Nursery the children will listen to many stories and sing songs/rhymes daily. Some of the songs we will be singing this month are:

- Hello/Goodbye Everyone!
- Heads, Shoulders Knees and Toes
- The Wheels on the Bus
- If you're Happy and You Know it
- Humpty Dumpty
- I look in the mirror...
- I've got a body

Library

Our visits to the school library will begin in October. Further details about this weekly routine will be included in our next newsletter.

Important information regarding Parent Mail

Snack time will begin on Monday 9th September. Our school uses Parent Mail, a secure online payment system to facilitate payments. You should have already received log in information. This system means that you can pay for dinners and snack online. If paying by cash please put £2 in an envelope with your child's name on it and leave it in the basket on the worktop above the children's pigeon holes. This weekly nursery money is due in on a **Monday** morning. You can also pay in advance if this suits you better.

Helpers

Once snack time begins we choose two helpers every day. We will display helpers for each week on the Nursery notice board. Being a helper provides many learning opportunities and the children usually enjoy it.

During the snack routine the children will:

- wash their hands before eating
- self-register for snack
- collect their cup and plate
- pour their drink
- select what they would like to eat
- chat to their friends
- sit at the table until they are finished
- tidy their items away for washing up
- the helpers will then wash and dry the dishes

This is a lot of information to manage so talk to your child about the snack time routine and see if he/she can sequence the steps for you.

Reminders

- All nursery children must be handed over to the nursery staff in the morning.
- All jumpers and coats need to be labeled with your child's name.
- If you have not already brought in a change of clothes (including socks/tights, pants and vest) please bring them in as soon as possible. The change of clothes does not need to be a school uniform as it may stay in bag without use all year.
- Please return all outstanding forms to the Nursery as soon as possible.
- In the interests of safety and hygiene, the only jewellery acceptable in school is stud earrings.
- At the front door there are boxes for your child's belongings. You need to check your child's box daily as there are often important letters enclosed.

A Final Note

The settling-in period is designed to ensure that each child has time to adjust to all the new experiences and people they will encounter. We gradually introduce new experiences/routines in the smaller groups before we put the whole class together. The children have been doing great so far and they are a credit to you, their parents. We are very proud of their achievements and how well they have settled in. Thank you for your continued support. It will be a busy year ahead for us all!