

Glendermott Nursery Unit January 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome back to a new term and a new year. The nursery staff would like to thank you all for your kind and thoughtful Christmas wishes. I think you will all agree that the children were fantastic in their nativity performance. They looked wonderful and they sang beautifully. We hope it will be a special and lasting memory for you and your child.

Colour

This month we will focus on the colours blue and white. The children will be mixing these colours and observing what happens. If you have any items at home your child can bring them in for the colour display table. This table is a very important learning tool in the nursery and your contributions are greatly appreciated. Please help your child at home by looking for colours and talking to them about their environment.

Shape

This month we will be learning about the square and rectangle. We will be matching and sorting these shapes and encouraging the children to look for them in school and at home.

Library Books

Library books changed every Tuesday. Please read with your child and return weekly.



Curriculum News

Our topic this month is Jack Frost and Friends which will focus on learning about seasonal changes in winter and also arctic animals. Learning will include:

- Going on a winter walk looking for signs of winter
- Dressing for winter-managing coat, hat, scarf and gloves independently (please encourage this)
- Observing the weather daily and recording it on our nursery weather chart
- Caring for the birds in winter
- Finding out about arctic animals
- Listening to stories related to the topic
- Singing songs and rhymes
- Answering 'wh' questions relevant to their experience
- Sequencing activities-first, next and last
- Painting and drawing, creating and making models
- Counting in order, sorting objects for colour and size
- Using the telephone to take calls and arrange appointments/taking on roles in imaginative play
- Writing appointments and prescriptions for patients, writing shopping lists for pet food and accessories

As with all topics the learning is endless and we are always surprised by the ideas that the children come up with and the creativity they bring to the planned activities. We want to ensure that every child meets their potential so we will continue to challenge the children and encourage them to think for themselves and problem solve in their learning. We will be adding the children's' names to their symbol and gradually as they recognise their name we will remove the symbol. Keep encouraging your child to take off and put on his/her jumper/coat independently. The children are so proud of themselves when they have achieved this skill. Success in learning new skills helps to build confidence and promote self-esteem.

As always the learning is endless! We try to maximize every opportunity by introducing and developing new concepts and skills.

Homework

During this month it would be helpful if you could bring your child to visit a pet shop such as 'Pets at Home' so that he/she can experience what the shop looks like, who works there and what you can buy for pets. Also if you have a pet and have been to the vets talk about the role of the vet and how he/she helps animals. We have set up a Vet's Surgery in the classroom so 'real' experiences will help your child to engage purposefully in this play.



Shared Learning

By now you will have noticed that I like to share some of the learning your child engages in over the month. As a staff we value your input and support with all learning. An important part of the nursery day is developing the children's language and communication skills. I recently assessed the children's use and understanding of language. These assessments highlighted language concepts that we will teach and reinforce in our everyday activities and carpet time. I have listed some of the learning you can help us with below.

- Play 'Simon Says'- ask your child to 'stand in front of/behind/beside the chair' or say 'Can you stand in front of/behind/beside me? etc
- Use a favourite toy and place it -on, under, in front, behind, beside different objects such as boxes or chairs. See if your child can tell you the position of the toy or if he/she can put the toy in the place you ask. Make mistakes and see if he/she notices. The children love it if you ask them to close their eyes when you are changing the position of the object. And of course tell them how clever they are at every opportunity and a big high five always makes their day.
- Recognising 'first' and 'last'. Line up some toy animals and ask who is first, who is last? Ask the child to close his/her eyes and swap the animals. Now who is first? Etc. The game has to be fun and keep it short. A lot can be achieved in a few minutes daily.
- Using and understanding the language of size such as 'long' and 'short', 'big' and 'small'
- Also continue to use every opportunity to reinforce numbers, colours and shapes as you and your child talk and play.

Songs and Rhymes

Here are some of the new songs/rhymes we will be learning this month.

I'm a Little Snowman

(Sung to: "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a little snowman short and fat.
Here is my scarf and here is my hat.
When the snow is falling come and play.
Build a snowman every day.

Snowflake Dance

(Sung To: "Are you Sleeping")

Dance like snowflakes, Dance like snowflakes
In the air, In the air
Whirling, Twirling snowflakes, Whirling, Twirling
snowflakes
Here and there, Here and there

Snow is Falling all Around

(Sung To: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")

Snow is falling all around,
Falling, falling, to the ground.
I catch snowflakes on my tongue.
Building snowmen is such fun.
Snow is falling all around
Falling, falling, to the ground.

5 Little Snowmen

5 little snowmen standing in a row
Each had two eyes and a carrot nose. Along came
the sun and shone all day and one little snowman
melted away.
4 little snowmen etc.....

The Chubby Snowman

A chubby little snowman, had a carrot nose.
Along came a rabbit and what do you suppose?
That hungry little bunny, looking for his lunch...
Ate the snowman's carrot nose, nibble, nibble, CRUNCH!

Here we go round the Mulberry Bush

Here we go round the Mulberry bush, the Mulberry
bush, the Mulberry bush x2 on a cold and frosty
morning.

Reinforce the magic
words
'Please' and 'thank you'

Happy Birthday



Clodagh

Rory

