

October 2018

Thank you ...

The children are settling well and have been busy making new friends, exploring the learning areas and being creative. Thank you to all parents for your support as we work together to settle each class into Nursery. We realise that the Induction process can pose difficulties for childcare and pick-ups, however we know that it gives the children the best possible opportunity to settle fully into Nursery life.

By the end of this month most of our children will be attending for their full session. We have been making the most of any dry weather we have had by playing outside as much as possible. It has been a lovely start to the new school year and we are excited for all the lovely times that lie ahead this year.

Theme -

Our theme for October is **'In the Woods'**

This month we will be exploring the animals and trees and plants that live in the woods and how the seasonal changes affect them. We use stories and rhymes to talk about the nights getting darker and the weather getting colder. It is also Harvest Time on the farm and we will be having a taster session of lots of different fruits at snack time on Friday 26th October, when the children will help prepare their fruit by washing and cutting it up (with child-safe tools!)

You will hopefully see lots of natural materials and objects in pictures of our play this month. The children will be digging in compost for vegetables, looking at seeds using a magnifying glass and sorting fruit and vegetables for type and colour, using their senses to talk about their textures and smells. 'World of Owls' will visit with their amazing roadshow, when the children will get to meet a very famous owl who starred in Harry Potter!

Stories – We will be reading the Usborne Farmyard Tales series of stories this month, as well as 'A squash and a squeeze', by Julia Donaldson, 'On the Farm' by Anna Milbourne and 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. Other favourites include 'The Gruffalo', 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. Please look out for some of these stories when visiting the local Library with your child!

Colour –

This month we will be talking about Autumnal colours – **red, yellow, brown** and orange- **orange** will be our focus colour, so please look out for **orange** objects in their environment and encourage them to bring something orange in from home for our colour table. Please ensure that all items are named – they will stay in Nursery until the end of the month when we will send them home again!

Parent / Teacher Meetings

We look forward to meeting with you all during the week beginning Monday 22nd October to discuss how your child has settled into Nursery and their progress to date. We will send home details of appointments available later this week. Please return the slip at the bottom of the letter to your child's teacher as soon as possible.



Parents' Information –

Big Bedtime Read



We are running a very special event for parents and children on the evening of **Tuesday 30th October** in our Nursery. We will be transforming Nursery into a home from home, inviting your child to come in their pyjamas and with their teddy, to listen to a bedtime story and have a snack in Nursery before bed. We are also inviting parents to stay during this time to give us a chance to tell you about the fabulous new story resources that we have bought for your child and will be providing for you and your child to share after half-term. We will have a little gift for each family who come along too!

To enable the children to have a little nap before this event and to allow us to prepare Nursery for it, **all classes will attend Nursery on this day from 8.45am until 11.15am.**

Smartie Fundraiser

We are in the process of having a sensory room installed in our Nursery School. We want our Sensory Room to have the latest technology that will provide a space for all children to explore their senses, including a projector, fibre optics, bubble tubing, textured equipment and aromas, and are working with the best innovators in this area - LearningSpace N.I. to design and install this room. We would love it done this term – our quote for the work is close to £6000 currently. Unfortunately with continued budget cuts we have limited funds to do this. We plan to have a SMARTIE Fundraiser where every child will receive a packet of Smarties before half term and then with your help, return it to Nursery filled with 20p or £1 coins, depending on the generosity of family and friends. We would really appreciate your support !!!

Dunclug Primary School Partnership

This month we will begin visiting Dunclug Primary School to work in partnership with their pupils. Three classes from Dunclug Primary School will be pairing with our three classes and we intend to visit them once a week to share 30 minute play experiences, shared reading, or physical development sessions. We think this will be a fantastic initiative, which will benefit our children, who will experience Primary School life and the fantastic accommodation and resources available there, while helping the Primary School aged children's personal, social and emotional development. Look out on our website and facebook pages for pictures of the activities we are doing in the Primary School each week.

Jo Jingles



We are looking forward to our Jo Jingles Music and Movement sessions, once a month until the end of the year beginning on Thursday 25th October.

Jo Jingles' music and movement programmes are designed with the Early Learning Goals in mind and help to develop:

- 🎵 Communication & Language
- 🎵 Listening Skills
- 🎵 Numeracy Skills
- 🎵 Physical Development
- 🎵 Creativity & Imagination
- 🎵 Memory
- 🎵 Personal Social & Emotional Development

Look out for photos and videos of our sessions on our facebook page.



Operation Christmas Child

We will be supporting the 'Operation Christmas Child' appeal again this year and are asking parents to fill a shoe box for a child who won't get a visit from Father Christmas. Leaflets with information on how to pack the boxes are available in the school office and entrance hall. We will let you know the date of collection of the boxes soon.

New Documents added - School Website

We have added some of our School Policies and a Holidays list for this school year in the Documents section of our School Website.

Parents of the Yellow Class can also find Dinner Menus here.

Parent Volunteers

We would like to establish a group of willing parent volunteers who could help out at Nursery events and generally support the work of our Nursery School. If you would be interested in being part of a group like this, please speak to your child's class teacher or to Mrs. Magill in our school office.

Pick Up Times

Please ensure that you arrive on time to pick up your child at the end of their session. We open the doors ten minutes before the end of the sessions to ease congestion. Late pick-ups can be distressing for your child and can cut down very precious planning and preparation time for Nursery staff. Thank you!

Children's boxes in the cloakrooms

Please remember to check your child's 'home' box at the end of every day. They may have made something for you or there may be some information for parents or carers in there. Please pass this on to carers, childminders or relatives who may also be doing pick ups!

Payment of Nursery Fund / School Dinners

Please use the yellow envelopes, which are available in your child's cloakroom for all money that is being paid into Nursery. There are pens available to write on your child's name and amount enclosed. These should then be posted in the red post box in the cloakroom of your child's class.

Change of Clothes

If you haven't done so already, please ensure that you send in a change of clothes for your child that can be used as necessary in Nursery. **These items stay in your child's bag on their peg.** Please remember to *name all items* and replace items that are used when incidents that require a change of clothes occur!

Change of Contact Details

Please remember to let us know if any of your contact details change, so that we can update our records in school.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who attended or donated towards the MacMillan Coffee Morning. All of the children really enjoyed decorating..... and eating, their own bun. We will let you know how much money we have raised, after the final count. We still have some donations being sent into school. If you would still like to make a donation please leave it with Mrs. Magill or any of the Nursery staff.



Important dates –

Friday 19th October – World of Owls Amazing Roadshow visit

Week beginning Monday 22nd October Parent / Teacher Consultations

Thursday 25th October – Jo Jingles will visit each session, normal session times apply

Friday 26th October – Fruit Tasting

Tuesday 30th October – **ALL CLASSES ATTEND 8.45 am – 11.15 am**

Big Bedtime Read for parents and children, in Nursery 6.30pm – 7.00pm.

Wednesday 31st October – Friday 2nd November – Half Term Break

Week beginning Monday 26th November – Stay and Play Sessions for Parents – Details in next month's newsletter



Birthday Boys and Girls

Happy Birthday all of these special boys and girls who will be celebrating their birthday this month ...

Yellow Class –

Sarah

Taylor

Abigail

Red Class –

Ella S

Darcy

Esme

Rhea

Blue Class –

Brody

Many Thanks for your support,
Pamela Muir - Principal

