

**October 2020**

**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 bubble into Nursery, in the midst of the new measures we have introduced regarding COVID-19. 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. 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.

**Session Times –**

All classes are currently attending for a shorter session than we normally do, with our Part Time classes attending for 2 hours and the Full Time class attending for 3 hours daily. The reason for this is that we have had to put additional measures in place within our setting, in an attempt to protect our children, staff and their families and to limit the potential spread of COVID-19 in our Nursery School. These measures require staff to undertake enhanced and more frequent cleaning and has meant that some of the resources we could previously have used are not at our disposal currently. We will continue to follow Department of Education and PHA guidance and will keep the length of session times under constant review.

**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 have lots of real fruit and vegetables incorporated in our play. We will also be having a taster session of lots of different fruits at snack time. 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.

**Stories** – We will be reading the Usbourne 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 online 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.

### **Parent / Teacher Meetings**

We look forward to talking with you all during the week beginning Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October to discuss how your child has settled into Nursery and their progress to date. This year the meetings are likely to be over the phone, to minimise the number of people who are coming into our School Building. Parents will be invited to arrange a time for a call from Mrs. Bishop or myself – we will send home more information about these next week.

### **Pick Up Times**

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

### **Payment of Nursery Fund / School Dinners**

We are working on establishing a cashless system for payment of Nursery Fund. We are hopeful that this will be up and running soon and will let you know when it is good to go!

After this we ask for £5 per week for Nursery Fund, which covers your child's daily snack and enables us to purchase resources and maintain our inviting learning environment.

Payment for dinners for children in the Full Time Class will begin when your child starts staying for dinner. I will let you know when we will begin introducing the dinner routine to your child later this month.

### **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!

### **Seesaw**

We hope that you are enjoying the updates we are providing through the Seesaw app. Please use the app to contact us if you need to. Messages you send to us are only seen by the teacher and yourself.

### **Dogs in the Nursery School Grounds**

We recognise that dogs are important members of the family and many of us in Nursery are dog lovers and have pet dogs at home. We are asking, however, that adults dropping off or picking up their children do not bring dogs in to our Nursery School grounds, to enable us to protect children who may have a fear of dogs and also due to the risk of injury to a child or a member of staff.

Please pass this request on to all the adults who drop off or pick up your child – thank you

### **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.



**Important dates –**

**Week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> October – Parent / Teacher Consultations**

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Half-term holiday**



### **Birthday Boys and Girls**

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

#### **Yellow Class –**

**Jessica**

**Eli**

**Maksymilian**

#### **Red Class –**

**Amelia**

**Harry**

**Robbie**

**Emily**

#### **Blue Class –**

**Daniel**

**Oisin**

**Abbas**

**Arsalan**

Many Thanks for your support,

*Pamela Muir - Principal*