

NEWSLETTER – St. Gerards Nov 2020

Dear Parents, as we welcome you back to the start of a new term we would like to reassure you that we are taking the safety of children and staff very seriously and we would like to share with you the following updates regarding Covid 19.

Children are responding very well to the new hygiene routines, and due to our investment in a 'fogging' machine, we have been able to use a wide range of resources. This has enabled us to continue to provide high quality, exciting learning opportunities each day. We are sorry parents are unable to come in to the setting and see what we are doing, but we hope you can gain an insight through Tapestry observations and photo's. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us via Tapestry or phone and we will be happy to discuss things with you.

Covid Outbreak - Unfortunately at the end of last term we had an outbreak of cases at our Whitchurch nursery which led to us closing the nursery at short notice to prevent the spread of infection. Please be aware that if we have multiple cases in pre-school, in line with Public Health guidance, we may need to close at short notice. As we have done this term we will keep parents fully updated via email about any suspected or confirmed cases relating to children in the setting, but our experience has proved that the situation can move very rapidly so please check your emails regularly. We also found that children who tested positive were asymptomatic and showed no signs of being unwell but were tested because family members had symptoms. We would therefore ask that parents be vigilant in keeping their children away from pre-school if any family members are ill, regardless of whether the child appears ill or not. This is an important and effective way to prevent any possible spread of the virus and keep pre-school open.

We will continue to carry out stringent hygiene and cleaning procedures within the setting but to further protect everyone we will be introducing the following measures from this next term:

- Parents need to wear a face mask when dropping and collecting their child
- Parents must keep well back from the door
- No backpacks or items from home can be brought into pre-school
- Staff will wear masks and gloves when answering the door
- Staff are no longer able to take crying children from parents. Staff will provide a hand to hold and encouragement but we cannot carry children into the setting
- Parents are asked to ensure they social distance from other parents and children whilst waiting to enter
- If family members are ill children must not attend the setting until the family member is well or tests negative for Covid 19

Please do not hesitate to contact Karon by email or telephone if you would like further details of our Covid procedures and we hope that they will enable us all to stay safe and well this term.

Curriculum Topics for this term

Date	Theme	Sound of the Week	Story of the Week	Song of the Week
2 - 6 Nov	Goldilocks & the Three Bears	's'	Goldilocks & the Three Bears	When G'Locks went to the Hse of the Bears
9 - 13 Nov	Celebrations & Festivals	'a'	The Invisible String	Five Little Candles
16 - 20 Nov	Outer Space	't'	Whatever Next	Twinkle, Twinkle
23 - 27 Nov	Aliens	'p'	Aliens Love Underpants	5 Little Men in a Flying Saucer
30 - 4 Dec	Winter Weather	'i'	Jack Frost	Christmas songs and rhymes
7 - 11 Dec	The First Christmas	'n'	The Nativity Story	
14 - 18 Dec	Santa's Workshop	-	Stickman	

Curriculum Topics - topics that we are exploring this term are detailed below and more information can be found on our website which is regularly updated at www.sunshinepreschool.org.uk/links The links section also has useful information for parents on; toilet training, local events, parenting tips and e safety (helping to keep your child safe on-line). We will shortly be adding additional information on speech and language activities. We hope you find them useful but if you would like to discuss any issues then please contact us.

During this term we will be using child centred activities and books to celebrate various festivals including **Bonfire Night, Diwali, the German festival of St. Martin** and the Christmas celebration of **St. Nikolaus** we will also be commemorating **Remembrance Sunday**.

Sound of the Week – Starting this term we will be introducing a weekly phonic sound as detailed above. Each week we will be exploring a letter sound through fun phonic songs and activities and will be giving children the opportunity to go on 'sound hunts' around the setting. You can support your child to learn phonics at home by helping them to find items that begin with the sound of the week and by playing simple 'I Spy' games. When introducing children to phonics it is useful to remember to use the '*sound*' that the letter makes and not the letter name, but if you would like more information then please speak to your child's key person.

Story of the Week – To support children's literacy development we will be continuing to explore a specific story each week as detailed above. Through revisiting a familiar story children are able to develop pre-reading skills and enhance their own creative storytelling. You can support your child by reading our story of the week or asking them to retell the story to you.

Marble Jar – Over the last few weeks your child may have told you they have ‘put a marble in the jar’ which is another way we use to reward children. Whenever a child is kind, helpful or has worked to achieve their best they are rewarded by adding a marble to our jar. When the marble jar is full the whole group has a treat and the treat is decided by the children. If your child tells you they’ve been able to put a marble in the jar be sure to give them lots of praise!

Harvest – A big thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest food collection which was taken to Counterslip church. They are seeing a big increase in demand and were extremely grateful for all your donations.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THIS TERM – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Change to Parent Key Person Consultations - In light of the increase in Covid 19 cases we have decided that it is no longer safe for us to meet with parents for face to face meetings. Therefore any appointments made for Tuesday 10th November are cancelled and we will be contacting you to arrange a discussion either by telephone or zoom. We are disappointed not to be able to meet with you in person but feel this is the best way to keep social contact to a minimum.

Children in Need – Friday 13th Nov. We will be organising a Pudsey Bear fun day and any donations received will be passed on to Children in Need.

Christmas Sing-a-Long Sadly in light of the current Covid situation we are unable to hold our usual Christmas nativity sing-a-long for parents.

End of Term Christmas Party – Friday 18th Dec Our end of term parties will look a bit different this year as we keep numbers to a minimum to help keep everyone safe. More details of how we will be celebrating will follow later in the term.

Family Celebrations – Please let us know if you have any special cultural celebrations or ways of celebrating that are different to traditional English customs so we can broaden our horizons and include them in our planning.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dress Code – In order for children to develop self-help skills and gain confidence in looking after themselves please dress children in clothing that they can easily manage themselves. Trousers and leggings that can be easily pulled up and down are best for accessing the toilet and preventing accidents. It is also essential that children have warm outdoor clothing to wear **every day** as they will be accessing outdoor learning at some point during the day. Children need to have suitable footwear for running and climbing, and coats to ensure they are kept warm and dry.

Pre-school Term Dates – Parents are reminded that our term dates are available online under the calendar section for each of our pre-schools and in the online ‘Welcome Booklet’. As dates are sometimes different to schools please check relevant opening and closing times. If you subscribe to our on-line calendar you will also receive reminders on your phone. How to subscribe can be found here:

<https://sunshinepreschool.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Subscribing-to-Calendar-Instructions.pdf>

We look forward to speaking with you at our key person consultations and sharing lots of information about your child.