

NEWSLETTER – St. Gerards January 2021

A warm welcome back to everyone and we hope you had an enjoyable Christmas time. As we start the new term the team would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy new year and say a big thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and presents we received, and also for your support in these difficult times which has been very much appreciated.

As you will no doubt be aware, the Covid infection rate still warrants Bristol being in Tier 3 and therefore the Covid protocols we adopted last term will remain in place. This means we will continue to carry out stringent hygiene and cleaning procedures within the setting and to further protect everyone the following measures must be adhered to:

- Children can only attend one childcare setting
- Parents need to wear a face mask when dropping and collecting their child
- Parents need to remain outside the entrance porch
- No items from home can be brought into pre-school
- A spare clothes bag needs to be brought in and left at pre-school for the term
- Staff will wear masks and gloves when answering the door
- Staff are not able to take crying children from parents. We will provide a hand to hold and encouragement but cannot carry children into the setting
- Parents are asked to ensure they social distance from other parents and children whilst waiting to enter
- Children must not attend pre-school if they show any symptoms of being unwell (not just the main Covid symptoms)
- If family members are ill children must not attend the setting until the family member is well, or tests negative for Covid 19
- We will ensure our building is well ventilated and children spend as much time as possible in the outdoor environment

Tuesday Session - We regret that due to staff who are unable to work at pre-school there will be no Tuesday morning session until further notice.

Please do not hesitate to contact Karon by email or telephone if you would like further details of our Covid procedures or would like to discuss any matters. We hope it will enable us all to stay safe and well this term. All Covid updates are sent to parents via email so please let Karon know if you have not received any.

Curriculum topics that we will be exploring are detailed below. This term we will be using books and activities to support children's mathematical development. You can support your child's mathematical learning at home by looking at shapes in the environment and helping them to count during every day routines, such as climbing the stairs, unpacking the shopping and noticing numbers when you're out and about. If you would like more information on suitable activity ideas you can arrange to speak to your child's key person when dropping or collecting.

DATE	CURRICULUM TOPIC	Sound of the week	Story of the week	Song of the week
4th - 8th Jan	Shape, Space & Measure	g	The Three Billy Goats Gruff	London Bridge is Falling Down

1th - 15th Jan	Shape, Space & Measure	l	The Three Little Pigs	Peter Plays with One Hammer
18th - 22nd Jan	Exploring Number & Counting	o	Ten Terrible Dinosaurs	Ten Green Bottles
25th - 29th Jan	Exploring Number & Counting	b	The Shopping Basket	Five Current Buns
1st - 5th Feb	Exploring Number & Counting	m	Granny went to Market	5 Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed
8th - 12th Feb	Chinese New Year	y	The Great Race	5 Little Monkeys Swinging in a Tree

Sound of the Week – Our sound of the week is detailed above so please encourage your child to explore phonics by looking for objects at home that begin with the sound of the week. Children are unable to bring in objects from home at the moment but please share photo's with us via Tapestry if you would like to.

Story & Song of the Week - To support children's literacy development we explore a story and song each week (as detailed above). It would be really helpful if you could share the story at home, or talk to your child about the story if you don't have a copy, as this will reinforce their reading and storytelling skills. Singing is also a great way to enhance language skills as it teaches children rhythm and rhyme.

New Children – We would like to welcome families whose children are starting with us this term and are looking forward to helping new children explore pre-school routines and build friendships within the group.

Parent Consultations - We hope you found it useful to discuss your child's learning and development with your key person last term. It was really nice for us to be able to give you feedback on what has been a really lovely and positive start to the academic year despite the current difficulties. Although we are limited in the feedback we can give you on a daily basis please let us know if you would like to speak to your key person at any time and we can arrange to meet you at pre-school or have a telephone conversation.

Tapestry – We hope you are enjoying looking at your child's on-line learning journal and finding out about some of the activities children have been taking part in. If you are not yet on Tapestry, please speak to your child's key worker, or phone Laura on the office number (0117 - 9774170) and we will try to help you. Your key person will use the diary to track your child's progress and development as we go through the year and will collate observations made by the whole staff team. Some of the observations will be individual to your child and some will be a 'group observation'. By making group observations we are able to capture a learning experience that your child has been involved in, so even if your child doesn't contribute anything verbally, they will have been a part of a group experience which will support their learning and development. We hope you find these observations give you further insight into what your child has been doing at pre-school. Please remember to comment on the observations you see and upload achievements and experiences that your child has done at home. We can then share these with your child and support their learning.

Suitable Clothes for Pre-school – Please could we ask you to make sure children are dressed in appropriate clothes for pre-school which they can easily manage themselves when using the toilet. Clothes need to be easy to pull up and down with no difficult fastenings. As the weather is now colder please make sure they are dressed in warm clothes as we will be accessing outdoor play every day. Shoes need to be suitable for climbing and running outdoors but wellington boots are not suitable for indoor play so if your child wears them to pre-school please can you bring shoes for them to change into. Many thanks for your help with these issues.

Spare Clothes – Please can you check to make sure there several sets of weather appropriate clothes in your child's bag as children may need changing after messy or water play, as well as for toilet accidents.

On behalf of the whole staff team we would like to thank you for all your support over the last two terms and hope that everyone stays safe and well during 2021.