

Nursery School October Newsletter



Dear Parents and families,

Your children have been settling in extremely well and we are delighted with how they have been establishing and building upon routines. The children have taken very well to our enhanced hygiene routines and happily sanitise and wash their hands frequently throughout the day.

We thank you for your proactive and considerate actions when you are concerned about your child being a close contact of Covid 19 and appreciate your continued communication with us if your child is displaying symptoms.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers, for the work you have clearly put in in preparing your child for Nursery school, especially in these unprecedented times. Our class are an excellent reflection on the families they come from we hope to continue to work with you in partnership to ensure their first memories of education are happy and positive.

Our Theme for October

We had a great time exploring our 'Marvellous Me' theme during the month of September and will now be moving onto the theme of 'Autumn and Halloween'. Please find attached the October Focus for more information, including how to support your child as they begin their next learning topic.

Autumn Scavenger Hunts

You can reinforce your child's learning of the topic by encouraging her/him to look for different Autumn treasures (such as coloured leaves, acorns, blackberries etc.)

We will be sending home an optional Autumn Scavenger Hunt for you to complete, and although we ask treasures are kept at home, we'd love you to share your pictures on our Family app.

Settling In

We are very pleased with how our children are settling into Nursery and how well they are managing the transition. If you however have any concerns with how your child is settling in please do not hesitate to contact myself or another member of our team. We want your child to be

happy and settled in their learning environment and leaving you in the morning and we are committed to working together, in partnership with you and your child to ensure this is possible. We treat our children as unique and valued individuals within our class, and appreciate they deserve our support, patience and understanding as they embark on managing this difficult first step in their education.

Encouraging Independence

In Primrose Hill we aim to support the holistic development of your child, including promoting their independence. We do this through encouraging your child to be as independent as possible in age and stage appropriate ways, such as toileting themselves, clearing their own plate and cup after snack, putting on their own welly boots etc.

While our staff are always happy to assist your child in any way, we ask you to support us by encouraging your child to be independent in the following areas:

- Toileting – encouraging your children to be independent in pulling up / down underwear and trousers, cleaning themselves, flushing, washing and drying hands
- Cleaning Noses – as we move into colder weather running noses and colds are more common. We ask you support your child in blowing their own nose, using tissue independently and popping it into the bin. This is especially relevant in Covid times.
- Putting on and taking off coats and jumpers – as we move into the colder months we will be encouraging the children to put on and take off their own coats. We use the 'flip over' method to empower the children in dressing themselves.
- Shoes and trainers – for all outdoor sessions we use our welly boots, and ask you to consider opting for shoes without laces for Nursery as these can be challenging for children to manage themselves and open laces are a trip hazard.

Nursery Fund

A gentle reminder about our Nursery Fund; as you are probably aware, current budget situation in educational settings is increasingly restricting. Without your weekly Nursery Fund donation, we will not be able to provide all we would wish to enrich your child's Nursery experience. Your contribution enables us to provide many essentials and extras for your child such as unique experiences, practical resources and educational trips to name but a few. Nursery fund is £4 per week but many payment options are available and can be paid weekly, monthly or termly.

Please do not put the staff in the uncomfortable position of asking for your contribution. We consider it only fair that all families make equal contribution. We thank you so much for your contributions thus far, and hope you continue to support us in this way.

School Uniform

Please ensure **ALL** items of clothing (coats, sweatshirts, shoes etc.) are clearly labelled with the child's name.

Settling In Reports

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we are not able to hold our Settling in Parent/Guardian Teacher Meetings face to face. However, in your child's Friday Folder this week is a copy of their settling in report. There will also be a monthly report that details to what extent the topic related learning intentions have been met by your child. We understand each and every child is different and will develop at their own pace and remind you not achieving a learning intention confidently is not underachieving in any way, but an indicator of what they will require support with as they progress to further topics. We find it an extremely useful measurement tool for planning and developing learning activities for the children and adjust these regularly in response to the children's progress.

Settling in reports will be followed up by a phone call by your child's teacher between the 18th - 20th October as their settling in progresses. More details on this to follow – we appreciate this may not suit all parents/guardians and will have a flexible approach to accommodate this.

If we have observed your child is having challenges in specific areas we will design action plans to support your child in managing and overcoming areas they are finding difficult. This is not in any way a negative reflection on the child or their behavior, but instead a tool to ensure they are receiving adequate support. This will be discussed with you during the telephone calls if applicable.

If at all you have any queries, issues or questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Maths Week 18th – 22nd October

To celebrate Maths week we will have an increased maths focus, playing maths games in class and outside. Maths is everywhere – in colour, shape, size, pattern, position and of course number. We ask you to support us at home by asking children for example for 'the **smallest** toy'...'the **biggest** toy' ...'to **sort**' the red beads from the blue beads... to '**match**' the '**pairs**' of socks ... 'to bounce the ball **three** times' etc... If you do anything really fun for maths week we'd love you to share photos of it with us on our Famly app and share ideas.

Big Bedtime Read

Many of you are more than aware of the benefits of story time before bed, which are far reaching and extend well beyond literacy. We will be taking part in the Big Bedtime Read – more details to follow soon!

Covid 19 Measures

As we continue to navigate these unprecedented times we are continuously reviewing and evaluating our Covid 19 measures in line with Public Health Advice.

The current measures we have in place consist of –

- Parents and guardians are required to social distance when dropping off and collecting their child and all adults should wear face coverings on school grounds (unless exempt) – we appreciate this can make the process slower than ideal however we deem it essential to ensure the safety of our children and their families.
- Staff, children and any visitor wash their hands upon arrival and before leaving.
- Children and staff wash their hands and use sanitizer frequently throughout the day and wash hands before eating, after sensory activities such as sand and play dough etc.
- Toys and resources are cleaned/wiped down each day
- Staff do regular lateral flow tests

We will continue to adapt to Public Health Advice and aim to provide the best possible learning environment for your child allowing them to access a full range of resources safely as we navigate our way through the pandemic.

Halloween Half Term

A reminder for your diary, Nursery school will be closed for Halloween Half Term from the 25th – 29th October (inclusive) and will reopen for all children on the 1st November. We wish you all a happy, safe and not too spooky Halloween holiday – have a well-deserved rest!

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in contact with your child's teacher.

Thank you for your continued support - we hope to continue to have a fun filled and learning packed term!

Niamh McLaughlin

Nursery School Teacher