



Dear Parents and carers

23 November 2020

We had a lovely week last week; the children have been busy exploring and creating. The babies have been discovering textures with lots of messy sensory play including soft shaving foam, crunchy cereal, and squishy playdough- lots of fun and lots of learning. The toddlers have enjoyed making obstacle courses using all the loose parts paraphernalia in the playground- they then raced against the clock to see who was the fastest. The preschool has been focusing on numbers this week complete with number hunts and matching activities. They've also been busy working through the Music Minors sessions sent across from Rachel- they should be experts by Christmas we think.

All the children have been fascinated with watching the crane working on the cement factory next door too. Workmen have been completing the fire repairs to the building, so the children have had a first-hand experience of what has been going on and how it's been fixed.

New Apprentice

Jackie and Danielle carried out interviews for a new apprentice last week and they were very pleased with the calibre of candidates they met. They both loved Tia and were pleased to offer her the job. Tia is set to join the toddler team this week. This gives us a total of three apprentices in nursery now- wowzers! At present, that's one for each room although this will soon change when the fantastic Katie finishes her qualification early next year so we'll be back down to two. Our nursery team has never been so big!! We have had to adapt though to ensure we have staff cover in place and are able to operate our class bubbles independently- we are trying to keep everything as consistent as possible for everyone.



Covid-19 update

As our staffing has started to get tighter with general staff illnesses and two staff members self-isolating due to being classed as clinically vulnerable- we feel we need to put our Covid contingency policy out there, just in case the inevitable happens. Please see link below:

<http://telfordnurseries.org/files/EMERGENCY%20PROCEDURE%20REGARDING%20STAFF.pdf>

Please be reassured that we do have lots of fantastic back up staff that have been stepping into help us, we are so grateful to Sarah and Michelle in particular for the hours they have been putting in over the last couple of weeks to help us remain fully open.

As we want to keep our provision as consistent and normal as possible for the children we have taken on another apprentice but it has to be said our staffing costs are through the roof at the moment as we try to keep our bubbles separate and cover our staffing gaps.. Please can we just remind everyone to pay their childcare fee's and dinner money on time? It really helps when we are not chasing money as it saves us a lot of time and also keeps the cash flow balance right for nursery.

Any questions or concerns then please email the nursery halesfield@telfordnurseries.org

Winter clothing



As children do spend a lot of time outdoors it's essential that they bring in their own winter essential clothing- ideally labelled with their name please. We have lots of spares in nursery but with Covid we really don't want the children sharing personal items such as these.

Given the choice most children choose to be outside so it's important they have the correct clothing to keep them warm and dry. As they say in Scandinavia: "There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing".

Christmas Opening

A few parents have enquired about Christmas opening hours. Funded children are due to break up on Friday 18th December, we stay open up until Christmas Eve for the all year-round children. We do close early on Christmas Eve, usually opting for a 4pm finish this is usually because we are so quiet and to give our staff an early finish, so they can spend time with their own families too. We then reopen on Monday 4th January to everyone as per normal. There are no nursery charges to parents for the days we are closed.



If you would like to book your child off during the festive period then please do let us know. If you give us a weeks' notice then you will receive your half fee's discount for the sessions your child is not in.

Clothes Collection



We have arranged another fundraising clothes collection for nursery for Thursday 10th December. We are happily accepting donations of old clothes and textiles which will then be collected and weighed in for nursery. This is great as it gives everyone the chance for a clear out and stops clothes going to landfill when thrown away. All donations can be placed in the nursery foyer and we will store them out of the way until the collection date. Last time we raised over £200 which paid for a term of Music Minors lessons- we're hoping to do the same again with your support.

Community Fridge

The community fridge was stocked with some fab produce last week. Thank you to everyone that came and utilised the fridge and those that donated. We raised over £70 last week alone, for the Food Share Project. That donation will make a huge difference as they will be able to comfortably feed 10 families of 4, for a week with that contribution. Thank you and well done to all- your making a difference in reducing food waste and also helping local families who are struggling. Keep your eyes focused on the fridge this week to see what we have in and what you can make use of.



Diary Dates and information

- Link to this week's menu:
http://telfordnursery.org/files/Autumn_Term_2020_Week_12_Menu.pdf
- Fundraising clothes collection Thursday 10th December
- Christmas Holidays- Funded children break up Friday 18th December and return Monday 4th January
- Nursery closed Friday 25th December through till Friday 1st January. Back open Monday 4th January.

Yours sincerely



Helen Childs
Nursery Manager