



Dear Parents and carers

6 September 2021

Welcome back everyone!!! We hope you've all managed to have a good break and some quality time with your families over the school holidays. We have missed all the smiley faces and can't wait to welcome everyone back properly this week. A huge welcome to all our new children and their families too, we hope you enjoy nursery life as much as we do here at Halesfield.

We have had an amazing time over the Summer holidays in nursery. Lots of fun activities and provocations to get the children learning through play. We said goodbye to our school leavers which of course was sad but we knew they were all ready for their new challenge. We wish them and their families all the luck for the future, hopefully they will keep us updated on how they are getting on. We were inundated with thank you cards, letters and gifts of appreciation which we are so grateful for and would like to thank everyone for their kind words and gratitude, it really is the best part of our jobs looking after and meeting all the wonderful families that come through our doors.

Whats else has been happening at Halesfield?



- We completed our iron fish for Telford and Wrekin's Ocean Fish Trail during July. The children loved getting involved with this, using their hands to make prints and brushes to make splatters. We talked about the importance of looking after marine life by reducing the amount of plastic we use. The effects of single use plastics that end up in the sea is devastating to the environment and the animals that inhabit the water. Our fish 'Metalica', is now being displayed in Jubilee gardens at Telford Town park- so if you wish to see it up close, please do pop down there and have a look. They have lots on display and it's highlighting a very important cause.
- Our sunflower challenge was very popular over the Summer. We had lots of photos sent in and heard many stories from the children about what they had been doing to make them grow. It really was a great learning provocation and has certainly ignited a passion for gardening amongst some of the children. Thank you to all who took part- we had many photos sent in of whopping sunflowers that the children were understandably very proud of. If your sunflower is still growing then please continue to keep us updated and we can add photos to the wall for the children to see.





- The preschool now have a lovely calm room where their studio was. It has been painted and carpeted throughout and made comfy and cosy. The children voted on what to call the room and they decided on the 'sweet retreat'. It has been hugely popular with the children as they can go in independently and find a cosy quiet



space to chill out. The preschool staff are also using the room for small group work, throughout the day children can break into smaller groups and work with an adult on different activities. Well done to the preschool team for making it such a calming and welcoming area.

- We completed our Just Quality accreditation. In case you missed the Facebook post- we passed with flying colours with the assessor saying we had the best floor books they had seen before. We are extremely proud of our achievement and the changes we implemented on the back on the accreditation. We have created a display in nursery with our floor books and can't wait to share them with parents soon.



COVID-19 and guidelines

Government restrictions and guidelines changed back in August meaning that close contacts are identified by Test and Trace and not the nursery. We have updated our COVID safe operating procedures for nursery- the link to the full document is here:

<http://telfordnurseries.org/files/policies/11%20Safe%20Operating%20Procedures%20COVID.pdf>

The main changes are highlighted below:

- Individuals who are double jabbed or under the age of 18 years are no longer required to isolate should they come into close contact with a positive COVID case. They will be required to take a PCR test to confirm they are negative before they return to nursery but will not have to isolate. Children who live with someone who has tested positive for COVID are recommended to stay at home purely to prevent the spread around the nursery. We have a few instances now where children have tested positive several days after a positive case in the household so there exclusion is advisable to minimise the spread.
- Parents are not required to wear a facemask but we still recommend parents wear them at drop off and collection times to minimise the risk of cross infection between adults.



- Staff and children at nursery are not required to socially distance with one another nor do groups of children need to be kept apart anymore. We will of course continue to minimise the mixing of children where possible but do believe the benefits outweigh the risks and it is beneficial for us to mix groups so the children can socialise and learn from one another.
- We are still keeping parents outside of the setting for the foreseeable but have started to let new parents in to view the nursery and some visitors are now aloud on site.

We are still maintaining our high levels of cleaning and hygiene in nursery, and continue to educate the children on how to keep themselves safe and well. Any questions please do speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help.

Changes to the EYFS



From September 2021, the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is changing. As part of these changes, we will be making some adjustments to the way we observe, assess and plan for children. The EYFS is the statutory Early Years Curriculum that is mandatory for all schools, settings and childminders and is set out for children to

follow from birth up until the end of reception. Below is a link to a letter setting out the changes to the EYFS and how we will make adjustments in nursery to meet the new requirements. Any questions, please do speak to a member of staff who can help.

http://telfordnurseries.org/files/EYFS_letter_to_parents.pdf

What is coming up in nursery?

Music minors is back... Yipee!! Rachel will be in nursery on a Tuesday morning (starting 14th September) working with all the children to increase their love and understanding of everything musical. We have a huge range of instruments available in nursery, that the children use and explore- Rachel brings the music and of course the energy and knowledge. We look forward to sharing photos of the fun and experiences we'll be having this term.



Forest school is returning. It has been way too long since we took the children into the woods to explore everything natural and fun. We absolutely adore outdoor learning at Halesfield and really understand the value the outside environment can have on childrens learning, development and wellbeing. We will be taking a group of preschoolers once a week into the woods, from the end of September. More information and permission slips will be sent out

very soon but this is great and a sign that things are getting back to normal.

“The best classroom and the richest classroom is roofed only by the sky” Margret McMillan

Tax free childcare, funding and fee's

Thank you to all those parents that have sent across their funding codes and various details to support the funding applications. We now have everything in place for the forthcoming term and everyone has been allocated their funded sessions.

I just wanted to put some information out to our new parents about the governments tax free childcare scheme. Parents are eligible if they pay tax out of their wages and can sign up for the scheme at <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare> In the long run it will save parents thousands of pounds on childcare costs. Any questions then please do email the nursery halesfield@telfordnurseries.org



Diary Dates and information

- Link to this week's menu:
http://telfordnurseries.org/files/Autumn_Term_2021_Week_1_Menu.pdf
- October half term Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October

Yours sincerely

Helen Childs
Nursery Manager