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## St. Mary's Nursery School Newsletter April 2017

### NEWS

#### **Easter Nursery Worship**

We had an Easter Service on the last Friday of term, led by Jimmy, where the children sang some of the songs and rhymes we have been singing during the term and children and adults worshipped God together. We also had an Easter egg hunt, an Easter bonnet parade and refreshments which we are all very grateful to the social committee for providing. Over £80 was raised for Nursery funds.

Earlier in the week we took some of the pre-school children to sing a collection of songs to the people at the age concern centre at Lavinia House. They love to see us and we all enjoy it too.

#### **Forest School**

Forest school is continuing to go really well and we are planning to increase the sessions to three per week which will enable the older children to attend once a week for the whole year. This term, we are looking forward to a visit from the Sussex Moth Group, Sussex Wildlife Trust to help us track mammals and possibly the RSPB as well. You can see photos of what we have been doing on our facebook page [Facebook.com/stmarysnurseryhorsham](https://www.facebook.com/stmarysnurseryhorsham). Last term, Liz attended a Forest School conference and Karen will be doing the Forest school training this week so we will be well equipped with many new ideas.

We will be looking for further volunteers from among the parents of our currently younger children to help us from September. Please speak to Lai as soon as possible as we will need to arrange DBS checks.

#### **Questionnaires and feedback**

We were all so grateful for the encouraging comments you gave us on the questionnaire in the Autumn term. We will attach a summary of the feedback on the end of this newsletter on our website so that prospective parents can read it. We do want to keep on getting better so please continue to tell us any ideas you have for improvement. One thing that came out of the questionnaire was that it is not always easy to catch your key person when you want to speak to them so we are going to change our 'suggestions' pot to a 'communication' pot and you can request a chat or pass some information to them via the pot if that suits you...or you can continue to email us or just ask another member of staff.

#### **Parent Consultation Evening**

Our parent consultation evening will be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May between 7.30pm-9.30pm. Please sign up for an appointment to see your child's key person on the forms which will be available the week before.

#### **Drop-in Coffee Stop**

Come and have a coffee after drop-off. This is an opportunity to breathe a sigh of relief after the marathon of getting the children out for Nursery and/or School! Babies and young children are welcome and are toys available. The Leslie room is open from 8.30-9.30am on **Monday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings** - please come in the West door directly to the extension as there is a service in the Church.

## **M & Ms**

We will be taking the pre-school children to the M & Ms service. **Please join us**, with your children, for this informal service for children & carers in the Leslie Room in the St. Mary's Church extension, at 2.15pm. The service is followed by refreshments. We will then return to Nursery for the children to be collected as usual.

## **Training & Network Meetings**

As well as the Forest School training mentioned above, our staff have completed the following last term:

- Observation, Assessment and Next Steps – Rae & Alex
- Promoting positive behaviour – Louise & Alex
- Child protection – Liz & Alex
- Inclusion Network Meeting – Louise
- Every Hour Matters (Preparation for extra hours free entitlement) – Lai
- Big build/Little build (which has inspired some things you may have seen on facebook) – Liz
- Business & Welfare Network Meeting – Lai

## **Students**

Our student, Jay, has finished his time with us now and we will be welcoming Bethany, also from Collyer's, for the coming term. We may also have some Christ's Hospital students helping us out in the afternoons from time to time.

## **Parent Representatives**

If you have any ideas or concerns you would like to raise directly with the management committee please speak to one of the parent representatives who are Leanne Rogers (Finley's mum) and Sarah Oxby (Rosie's mum).

## **OUR THEMES: Spring - lifecycles and weather**

Our plan is very flexible as our activities change according to the interests of our children as well as what they need to help their development.

**Week 1, w/c 24<sup>th</sup> April – Spring planting:** ordering sizes, planting seeds, Jack and the beanstalk and other plant stories

pre-school: sounds a & b, exploring IT equipment, painting what we see

**Week 2, w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Spring minibeasts:** creative dressing up, minibeast craft & maths activities

pre-school: sounds c & d, lifecycle activities, exploring feelings

**Week 3, w/c 8<sup>th</sup> May – Spring animals:** role play farm shop, visits from pets

pre-school: sounds e & f, animal babies activities, skeleton pictures on the light panel

**Week 4, w/c 15<sup>th</sup> May – Spring birds & eye patch week:** exploring feathers,

magnifying glasses/binoculars, role play opticians, possible RSPB visit,

pre-school: sounds g & h, giant junk-modelling

**Week 5, w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Spring weather:** dressing up, rainbows, dancing & music activities, parachute games

pre-school: sounds i & j, kite making, weather activities

Please use this information and the feedback on the board each session to talk with your child about what they have been doing and to extend some of their learning with 'show and tell' which relates to what we are doing.

## **How you can help us this term**

### **Bring your pets**

We would be delighted if you could bring your pets to visit us. The week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> May would be ideal but any week that suits you is fine. Please speak to Lai if you can help with this.

### **Dressing up**

Please can you lend us hats again for dressing up in the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> May, preferably ones that would be worn in different sorts of weather. Also, if you have other items which the children could dress up reflecting different weather, that would help too – eg sandals/shoes.

#### **Key-person**

If you have any questions, concerns or information about your child, please speak firstly to your child's key-person, if possible. Remember there will now be a communication box if you don't manage to catch anyone in the rush of drop-off.

#### **Sainsbury's Vouchers**

Please collect vouchers for us and bring them in. Last year, we used them for extra Forest Schools equipment and we will probably do the same this year.

#### **Healthy Eating**

We would prefer you not to bring sweets on your child's birthday. We have a dummy birthday cake on which we light candles and we sing 'Happy Birthday' together. If you wish, you could bring in cake or a similar treat for them to share at snack time.

#### **Drinks cartons**

Please could you use ONLY drink containers which can be resealed when packing your child's lunch as we return all packaging to you to show you what your child has consumed.

#### **Labels**

Please remember to label all your children's clothes (including hats), bags, wellies & lunch boxes.

#### **Nut(& sesame seed)-free Nursery & Allergies**

Please remember not to include nuts or sesame seeds when preparing your child's lunch or bringing a snack to share.

Please inform us as soon as possible if your child develops any allergy.

Thank you so much for all your continuing support,  
Lai, Karen and the Nursery Team

## **St. Mary's Nursery Responses to a questionnaire about our provision**

1) How happy has your child been at St Mary's Nursery?

Very, except for initial separation

Very happy x 7

Both appear happy at Nursery – one has a small issue at separation but that's it

She has loved it

Very happy, settled in so well and know lots of his friends names

Seems to be slowly settling in well. He often talks about nursery.

My boys have been so happy so far. They seem to have settled really well. It has been so nice for them to have one on one time.

Very happy – could not ask for a better setting.

He has been very happy and is already excited about nursery even though he has only been coming for a couple of weeks.

Very – there are no problems as far as we are aware.

Loves it

Seems happy. Wants to come. Has made friends.

Extremely

2) What have they particularly enjoyed?

Trains, planes, outdoor play, music, staff and other children  
Forest schools, interactive free play  
Music, playing outside  
Painting, dressing up and singing/dancing  
The classroom  
Teeth brushing (helps us!), Little house in the garden  
Being a dinosaur or a dog, playing outside  
The comfort of his key worker and the resources held here.  
Varied activities and making new friends  
Forming friendships and imaginative play and dressing up!  
I have enjoyed having their art work coming home. Having one-on-one time has been amazing – I feel I have got to know them as individuals.  
The forest school activities and the mud kitchen  
Playing outside and Forest school  
Everything – the environment/staff could not be better for the children  
He loves the variety of activities, the outside toys and the new level of independence  
Drawing and colouring in  
Forest school, baking activities, crafts  
Forest school and the outside space, the rapport with their key worker  
Wearing the dresses!  
Forest school and garden particularly bikes.

### 3) Is there anything your child hasn't enjoyed which we could change?

Not that I know of  
No x 7  
Not that he's told me  
No – he's just not sure in the morning before we arrive  
I don't think there has been anything.  
Not that I can think of!  
He has struggled with structure a little and coming inside when it's snack time and music.  
Not as far as we are aware.  
Can't think of one thing!!  
Can't think of anything.  
More dresses!

### 4) How would you rate the communication at St Mary's Nursery?

Very good x 6  
8/10  
Wonderful, love Tapestry photos  
Just fine  
10/10  
Good x 2  
Feel it has been good – like the feedback board outside  
Good – like Tapestry  
10/10  
Excellent, very encouraging, warm, friendly and honest.  
Excellent – we find out what we need to in a timely manner.  
Very good but maybe take a photo of 'What we've done today and put it on the facebook page, for example.  
Can always chat to whoever is on the door. Haven't seen keyworker yet this term, though.  
Excellent

5) Write any other comments below.

I feel very happy leaving my child at nursery because the staff are so lovely and caring. Thank you!

Keep doing what you're doing. Small and personal. Well done. X

I am very happy and impressed by the overall experience at St. Mary's. Very skilled, efficient and caring teachers. I'm very grateful.

Thanks for making it such a great environment for them to make friends and learn.

Thank you for having a big impact in our son's preparation for school! He has loved coming here!

Love tapestry however would like to know more about levels plotted against EYFS

We've been really happy with the Nursery and feel that our daughter has really benefitted from attending. I'll be sad next year when I'm not dropping off/picking up – but my next child will follow shortly after!

Love the nursery & staff so much. Feel that boys have settled well due to staff being so calm and friendly with them. Although they haven't been coming that long, I am amazed that one of my child's speech has really come on and feel they have suddenly grown up overnight – am so pleased.

We are so happy with St. Mary's Nursery. Our daughter is very happy here. Staff are very kind, genuine and caring. Thank you.

Thank you for making so much effort with the introduction to Nursery and for making it so smooth and enjoyable.

We've always found it a good nursery hence why both of our children have gone here.

We couldn't be happier with the Nursery & its teachers and staff.

My son absolutely loves coming to Nursery and is disappointed on days he doesn't attend.

We can't wait for our daughter to start. Excellent staff, excellent set-up, fantastic Nursery!!!