



**Freedom to explore
Opportunities to express**

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NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

We know you will be looking forward to catching up with your child's key worker next week to talk about the progress your child has made this term. The children have really settled in well and are learning lots of new things. Although it seems a long way off, we just want to remind you about completing the application form for children who will be starting school next September! If you haven't already done so you can complete an application online at www.sthelens.gov.uk.

The children noticed some of the adults wearing poppies earlier this month for Remembrance Day. We have spoken to the children about what the poppies are and explained why people are wearing them, at an age appropriate level of course. We've also shown some pictures of real poppies growing and the children were surprised that they were a real flower. Some of the children have been wearing their own poppies too and have delighted in showing the adults in nursery that they too have one to wear.

If you go past the Remembrance Garden in Rainhill on the main street (or anywhere for that matter), you could show your child the poppies that have been laid there and talk about them.

Named Clothing

As the weather is beginning to change we've noticed more children coming in wearing warmer coats and with their hats and gloves on too. This is just what they need when they choose to use the outdoor area as part of our daily routine. We just ask that you please name these items too as often we find a forgotten hat or glove and this helps us to match them with the owner!

A message from our Governors

Governors were delighted to hear the progress children have made this term with their independence skills. Key workers have observed children taking their own coats off and taking their shoes off as well as trying to have a go at putting them back on. Amazing! The perseverance some children show to complete these tasks is wonderful to see. We hope they do this at home too!

What we are learning:

We've been reading lots of traditional tales in our groups recently. The children have enjoyed listening to the stories and joining in with the repeated phrases. We often use puppets alongside the book as this helps children to concentrate on what is happening in the story. The children then retell the stories to each other using the props in the classroom. This helps them to gain a good understanding of story structure and they really enjoy using different voices for the characters (we have some scary wolves in our nursery)...

We've been singing some of our favourite nursery rhymes too. Our current favourites are: 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star', 'Humpty Dumpty', 'Incy, Wincy Spider' and of course many more! We know how important nursery rhymes are in children's development and there's lots of research to show they improve reading, spelling and literacy skills too. Fun and learning all at the same time! Why not ask your child which is their favourite and join in with them – don't forget to do the actions!

There will be an arrival of some greenery in the classroom soon! Key workers have been developing the children's awareness of celebrations associated with this time of year and are now beginning to talk about Christmas. We always like to enjoy the tree for a little while just as it is with the beautiful branches and wonderful smell before the children help us to decorate! We know we will see some amazing decorations added to it in the next few days!



Willowbrook Hospice

We also wanted to tell you about Willowbrook Hospice's latest project with St Helens Council '**decorate and donate**'. They're inviting residents to decorate their homes, schools and businesses and if you would like to, to make a donation to Willowbrook Hospice either via their Just Giving page or on the Hospice website page.

St Helens council are supporting this fundraising and will be switching on all the Christmas lights across the borough on Friday 4th December at 7pm.

Finally, we wanted to let you know about our Christmas Workshop we will be doing in nursery soon. This will look a little different this year as we usually invite parents into nursery to join their children in a range of activities such as making cards or decorations but due to restrictions we are unable to do so this year. However, we will still make sure the children have the opportunity to choose from a range of activities including an outdoor trail and making food for reindeer!

Diary Dates:

- Autumn term ends on Friday 18th December
- Monday 4th January is a staff training day and school will be closed for children
- School will open again on Tuesday 5th January 2021