



**Freedom to explore
Opportunities to express**

Contact: rainhillnursery@sthelens.org.uk 01744 677635



APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back to everyone after the holidays. We hope you all had a really good break! It's amazing to think that we are now in the final term of the Nursery year. Many of you have been telling us that you've had notification of your child's new school for September and we know that you will be beginning to look ahead and to plan for that very important transition. We've already started to hold conversations with Reception teachers to talk about their new classes. In accordance with the best practice, we always pass the children's nursery tracking record to the Reception teacher, so that they can continue to plan for their progress.

Thank you to those of you who sent in photographs of your Nasturtium plants the children have grown from the seed they planted in nursery. Wow they've really grown! When we've received pictures from you we've shared them at group time and the children have been very keen to tell us how tall their plants are. We can't wait to see photos of them when their flowers emerge too.

Road Safety

Alongside our participation in The Big Pedal we've been reading a book about road safety. The children have told us what they already do to keep safe including holding an adult's hand, waiting for the green man before they cross the road and wearing a seatbelt if they are in a car. We've been using our outdoor area to practise some of this too! We've also been looking at road signs and trying to work out what the images mean. You could point out road signs and talk to your child about them on your way to nursery.

Tadpoles



We have some frogspawn in nursery at the moment and the children have been watching it closely. They told us they could see things moving around so we looked at a non-fiction book together and have found out that they're tadpoles! The children are fascinated by how they move and how much they've grown. The books tell us they're going to change into frogs – we'll keep looking and let you know!

At group time we've been learning to program Beebots using simple directions to make them move. Beebots are fun educational robots and the children used their sequencing and problem solving skills to work out how to get them from one place to another. We had lots of fun as sometimes the Beebot didn't move where we expected it to and even went backwards once or twice! We always encourage the children to have a go themselves and see what happens as we know this is how they learn best.

We have continued to focus on the development of the children's handwriting in nursery. Key workers have been talking to children about how to write the letter shapes and showing them that the capital letter is bigger than the lower-case letters as well as the way our writing goes from left to right. There's quite a lot to think about before you even write letters on paper! Handwriting is part of children's physical development and key workers are skilled at knowing what stages children are currently at and therefore, what their next steps should be. What they never do is give the impression that perfectly formed writing is more important than the content i.e. what it says, as we know that children can easily lose confidence and we always encourage them to 'have a go' themselves and not copy over our writing.

You could encourage your child to practice the 'key letter shapes' from the information sheet we sent home last term - the curly caterpillar, long ladder and one-armed robot.

The Big Pedal

We would just like to say a very big thank you to those of you who took part in The Big Pedal over the last two weeks. The children have been very excited to tell us about their journeys to school on bikes, scooters and walking and they have helped us count the tokens each day to find out how many journeys we've made altogether. At the time of writing the newsletter we still have journeys to enter, as I am sure other schools do too, so when we find out our final positions we'll let you know. Of course we hope you continue to use your bikes and scooters as well as walking after The Big Pedal finishes.

What we're learning at the moment:

- There are lots of changes happening in our outdoor area at the moment and we're working with the children to look closely and talk about what they see. The plants and trees are growing leaves and we've noticed lots more insects and creatures around. We keep checking our bug house to see what's moved in!
- We will be learning about keeping safe in the sun ready for the changes to the weather we're sure we'll see. We'll be using information books to do this and talking about the differences between those and fiction books too.

Diary Dates for April

- School is closed for the Bank Holiday on **Monday 3rd May**
- School closes for the half term break on **Friday 28th May** and reopens on **Monday 7th June**