

**Freedom to explore, opportunities to express**

September 2021 Contact: [rainhillnursery@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:rainhillnursery@sthelens.org.uk) 01744 677635

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| It is incredibly sad for both myself and my staff that we have had to become much more of a ‘closed door’ nursery than we would like. We value our relationships with parents, grandparents and carers a great deal and I want you to know that although you cannot come into the school as before, we are contactable in other ways. You can email me at the address above and I will endeavour to reply ASAP or pass the information onto the relevant staff. Key workers are on hand to speak to, at the end of the day after children have gone, if there is anything you wish to discuss or bring to our attention that may help during this settling period. | |
| **First days and weeks….**  Our returning children are doing a fantastic job of helping the new children to settle into their new routines and showing them the very high expectations we have of learning behaviours.  Our new children are settling in really well. We take things at a steady pace so that they have opportunities to explore their new environment, build new relationships with other children and adults and enjoy the new experiences on offer - all vital for their growing confidence and independence. Already we can see just how much progress they have made since their first few days with us.  Miss McGuire and Mrs Brennan lead on planning and the focus for this half term is on supporting new children to learn our routines and on ensuring returning children continue to make excellent progress. We always take children’s interests into account when planning and provide the right amount of challenge to move them forward in their learning. | |
| **Packed Lunches**  You should have been given a label for your child’s lunch box to avoid any confusion and to ensure that children and staff are able to quickly identify whose box belongs to who. (Dinosaurs and unicorns are popular this year!) Please contact the school office if you haven’t received your child’s label.  Don’t be concerned if your child is not eating a lot. The children have access to 2 snack times and regular drinks. Children often eat more if they have helped you to make the lunch and are aware of what they are getting. And remember they only have very tiny stomachs!  We encourage you to pack a healthy lunch for your child, (please do not include sweets, chocolate bars or sugary drinks) and to pack food in easy to manage containers. Adults are on hand to support children to open packets etc, but we always encourage them to ‘have a go’ themselves first. Your child’s drink bottle must fit either inside the lunch box or in the drink holder on the side. | |
| **Attendance**  We encourage excellent attendance over the year. Please can you ring the school office on **01744 677635** if your child is too ill to attend Nursery School or has an appointment. It’s important that you inform us so that we know your child is safe.  The school office is open 8.30 – 4.30 each day and there is no one available to take your call you can leave a message on the answerphone for us.  Our term dates are located on the school website. We require advance notice of holidays and ask you to complete a Holiday Request Form available from the school office.  Please also remember to tell us if you change your mobile phone number! | **Snack & Drink**  All children can access a healthy snack during the session. We offer children a choice and our menu across the week includes apples, bananas, broccoli, cucumber, grapes and carrots. Children are given a choice of milk or water to drink. Please don’t send drinks or snacks in.  We ask for a voluntary donation of £2 per week towards this and any money left over contributes to ingredients for baking e.g. bread or soup, playdough ingredients and other consumable resources in the classroom. |
| Please send your child in easy to manage clothing, ensuring that everything, including gloves and hats, etc. is named.  Nursery School can be a messy affair and, whilst we have aprons and waterproof clothing, children will still get dirty and wet from time to time. We want your children to enjoy exploring paint, glue and other messy materials, as well as wet weather; it’s the way they learn about the world! Please make sure that your child always has spare sets of clothes in school. | |
| **Toilets**  We know from experience that when children start nursery they sometimes have toilet accidents. This is a new environment for them and can take time to get used to. Your child may have accidents here even if they don’t at home. Please don’t worry about this as it usually doesn’t last long. Your key worker would speak to you if they felt there was a concern.  Children can become so engaged in their play that sometimes they leave it until the very last minute to go to the toilet! We do prompt them, but we also encourage them to go when they need to. The children use the toilets independently if they are already trained and this is why we ask you to dress them in easy to get off and easy to get back on again clothes. Tights and belts can be particularly tricky for small fingers! | |
| **STAFFING**  Staffing for this academic year remains similar to the previous year:   * **Miss Emma Nicholson – Headteacher** is on site Monday to Friday * **Miss Jessica McGuire – Class Teacher** is on site Monday to Friday. Miss McGuire has oversight over teaching and learning for 3 and 4-year-olds, in addition to being Key Worker for Yellow Group. * **Mrs Sarah Brennan – Early Years Teacher** is on site Wednesday to Friday. Mrs Brennan works with Miss McGuire to plan learning experiences for the children and is also Key Worker for Green Group. * **Mrs Ivy Burton – Senior Learning Assistant** is on site Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning and is also Key Worker for Green Group. * **Mrs Lisa Bagot – Learning Assistant** is on site Monday to Wednesday and is Key Worker for Blue Group along with **Mrs Jacquie Jordan (Senior Learning Assistant)** who works part time across the week. Mrs Bagot and Mrs Jordan support our children during breakfast and lunchtimes. * **Mrs Liz Cathcart – Learning Assistant** is currently on maternity leave. * **Miss Hayley Boardman – Lead Practitioner for 2-year-olds** is on site Monday to Friday. Miss Boardman is Key Worker for Orange Group. Miss Boardman supports our children during after-school and lunchtimes. * **Mrs Alison May – Learning Assistant** works in 2-year-old provision and is on site Monday to Friday. Mrs May supports our children during wraparound care. * **Mrs Katherine Culley and Mrs Angela Gregory** both work part time in our school office. * **Mrs Madeleine Cummings** is our school caretaker. Thanks to Mrs Cummings our school is always clean! | |
| **Diary Dates:**   * We break up for half term on **Thursday 21st October**. * Monday 1st November is an staff training day (INSET) and school will be closed for children. * School will reopen on **Tuesday 2nd November**. | |