



**Freedom to explore
Opportunities to express**

Contact: rainhillnursery@sthelens.org.uk 01744 677635



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

We know you will be looking forward to catching up with your child's key worker after half term 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.

We were delighted when Penelope recently brought some apples, from the tree in her garden, into nursery for us. The children helped make them into an apple crumble and it was delicious! We include the children in baking activities as this helps them to learn about ingredients and what they can be made into. There's lots of new vocabulary used too as they learn the names of not only the ingredients but the tools and equipment they use. Finally the best part is always eating what you've made and we find that most children will try things if they've been involved in the process of making it. We always encourage to 'just have a little bit and if you don't like it that's OK. At least you tried.'



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 as often we find a forgotten hat or glove and this helps us to match them with the owner!

A message from our Governors

At our recent Governors meeting they were delighted to hear the progress children have made so far 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 have been 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!

What we will be learning:

In our second half of this autumn term we will be learning about the festivals of Diwali and Christmas and their similarities and differences for those who celebrate them. We'll have information books and resources linked to the festivals for children to explore and we'll be learning about the traditions people take part in too.

We will also be speaking to the children about Remembrance Day, including what the poppies are and why people are wearing them, at an age appropriate level of course. We'll be showing pictures of real poppies growing (they may be surprised to learn that they are a real flower!)

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.



Diary Dates:

- Half term starts on Tuesday 2nd November
- Term ends on Wednesday 22nd December