



**Freedom to explore**  
**Opportunities to express**

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## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

We hope you enjoyed catching up with your child's key worker recently to hear about the progress your child has made and what we're doing in nursery school and what you can do at home to support their learning.

Soon we will have the arrival of some greenery in the classroom and reception area! Our trees have arrived, and we always like to enjoy them for a little while just as they are with the beautiful branches and wonderful smell before the children help us to decorate them. We know we will see some amazing decorations added in the next few days! 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 and the traditions people have.



The children helped to make pumpkin soup recently. They worked with the adults to scoop out the seeds and then chop and slice the pumpkin ready for the adults to cook. Many of the children were fascinated to learn you could eat pumpkin as so many thought it was just for decoration. They enjoyed the soup when it was ready to eat and were keen to describe what it tasted like.

## School Governors

Our Nursery School Governors met earlier this term to review the work of our school. Governors look at children's attainment and progress and the work of the school to support this. This year we are working on the following:

- ✓ Implementing and monitoring the impact of the new Early Years Foundation Stage framework.
- ✓ Implementing a Professional Development Programme for all teaching staff
- ✓ Continuing to promote the highest standards of behaviour; supporting children to develop as confident, independent, and resilient learners
- ✓ Giving safeguarding the highest priority
- ✓ Reviewing the curriculum to ensure it is sufficiently broad and balanced to meet the needs of the cohort.
- ✓ Continuing to extend the impact of the school to include other school and nursery settings within and beyond St Helens.

## Staffing

We are pleased to announce that we have recently recruited to the posts of teaching assistant within our 3- and 4-year-old provision. Mrs Keevil has joined our team as Blue Group Key Worker and Breakfast Club Leader and Mrs Brown is providing support for children with SEND and additional interventions. We are delighted to welcome them both to our team.

## Outdoor Clothing

Your child will require a warm coat, gloves (mittens are easier) and a hat as we continue to use our outdoor area throughout the winter as a learning area as it gives us wonderful opportunities to experience first-hand the changes happening and of course the weather. We've had an early opportunity to talk about snow this year and there's nothing like touching the real thing and talking about what it feels like. Please make sure **ALL** items are labelled to avoid losing them.

## What we have been learning:

The children enjoyed learning nursery rhymes as we took part in World Nursery Rhyme Week and we hope you enjoyed doing them with your child at home too. In nursery school the children performed their favourites for each other in their key worker groups. It's wonderful to see just how much confidence they have developed since September. We hope the children enjoyed receiving their certificates!

As well as words that rhyme, we've also been listening for other sounds as part of our phonics work in literacy. Sometimes this has involved walks around our garden listening carefully – some children even heard an aeroplane fly overhead! We've also been listening to the different sounds instruments make and trying to make sounds with our bodies such as stamping, clapping, and tapping.

In our key worker groups, we have been learning to move our bodies in different ways around a space and without bumping into each other – harder than you might think! This is all part of children’s physical development which is one of the prime areas of learning in the early years. As young children develop, they learn lots of new ways of moving and we always encourage them to have a go and try doing new things. We also regularly talk to the children about how important it is to stay fit and healthy, and we talk about the food we eat. The children choose from healthy fruit or vegetables at snack time, and we learn how sweets and chocolate are for treat times, not an everyday food.



**What we will be learning:**

In Literacy children are practising their ‘key letter shapes’ and thinking about how they relate to some of the letters they may be beginning to recognise.

In maths the children are practising and developing their counting skills, whilst also exploring quantity, different aspects of shape and using our number poems to recognise and form numerals.

Finally, we wanted to let you know about our Christmas Workshop activities we’ll be doing in nursery soon. This will look a little different again 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 can choose from a range of activities including an outdoor trail and making food for reindeer!

**Diary Dates:**

- Term ends on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December
- School will open again on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**REMINDER – Deadline for Applications to Reception Class is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**