



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

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## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

We have a short newsletter this month to tell you about a few of the things we have been doing. The children have enjoyed choosing from our Christmas activities over the last couple of weeks. Some of the things they made included pomanders and reindeer food. They've been very keen to use the resources in the writing and creative area to make cards too. Part of this has involved writing their own messages in the cards. As you know, we always encourage the children to have a go on their own first and to think for themselves, rather than simply giving them a model to copy or dots to trace. The adults can then scribe underneath the children's writing, gently modelling the correct way whilst promoting the children's pride and confidence in their own work. The result is we have seen an increase in children's enthusiasm to write and also in their interest in letters and print.

### Staffing

We are pleased to let you know Mrs Cathcart is returning from maternity leave in January. Mrs Cathcart is Red Group Key Worker within our 3- and 4-year old provision and Breakfast Club support. We've also added to our teaching assistant team within our 3- and 4-year-old provision as Mrs Necula will be providing support for children with SEND and additional interventions.

### Students

Miss Hanlon and Miss Thompson from Liverpool Hope University will be joining us in the new year for their teaching practice during the first half term of 2022. Miss Hanlon and Miss Thompson have already visited us in nursery school to meet the staff and children.

We are delighted to welcome them all to our team.

**What we have been learning:**

We've been reading lots of stories recently including the Nativity story. We used the crib to explain the story and it has been fascinating to hear how the children's vocabulary has developed and how readily they draw upon their knowledge of the characters in the story. They have also been using relevant vocabulary to describe the Christmas tree and its decorations. The children were encouraged to thread pipe cleaners onto the baubles before hanging them on the tree. This helps to develop their fine motor skills, which will of course help them to hold a pencil when they are writing or drawing too!

**School Governors**

I am pleased to inform you Mr Keith Jones has been elected as Parent Governor and will be attending our Governing Board meetings each half term.

**Diary Dates:**

- School will re-open on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- Half term ends Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- INSET Day is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February and school will be closed for all children.
- Half term starts Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February
- Spring Term ends on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April

Our calendar is available on our school website [rainhillnursery.st-helens.sch.uk](http://rainhillnursery.st-helens.sch.uk)

**What we will be learning:**

We will be encouraging the children to develop their speaking and listening skills such as waiting while other children or adults are speaking and taking it in turns to talk. Communication and Language skills are a Prime Area of development in the EYFS and we focus on these skills throughout the nursery day.

In our key worker groups the adults will focus on children's characteristics of effective learning. We have already introduced our school puppets to the children and talked about how for example, Resilient Ray keeps on trying and doesn't give up when something he tries to do is a bit tricky. The children identify with the puppets and will say e.g. 'I'm like Resilient Ray I kept on trying.'

**We wish you all a very  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy and Peaceful New Year**

