



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

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## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

As this is our first newsletter of the year, we would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new children and parents who have started with us in nursery this term. It has been lovely to see our returning children settling back into nursery and helping the new children by showing them what to do at group time e.g. good sitting and good listening. This just goes to show how much they have learnt since they joined us!

We know that settling into nursery can be a challenge for children and parents and want to reassure you that we will do our utmost to work with you to support each child to settle. Staff are always on hand to speak to if there is anything you wish to discuss or bring to our attention that may help during this settling in period.

### Ofsted Report

Thank you to those of you who have been in touch with lovely comments after you read our Ofsted report following our recent inspection. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Outstanding judgement in a row for our Nursery School.

For those who haven't seen it, it's available to view at [www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.reports.ofsted.gov.uk)

### *xīn nián kuài lè*

That means Happy New Year in Mandarin Chinese.

Next week it is Chinese New Year and we are learning about the festival and celebrations linked to this special time including special meals, family time and the giving of gifts! We'll also be changing our role play area into a Chinese restaurant soon, decorating the classroom and reception area with traditional lanterns and watching a lion dance on our new interactive whiteboard. In the Chinese calendar it will be the Year of the Tiger.

### What we have been learning:

We have been focussing on different types of writing in nursery school and bringing the children's attention to the letter of the week in the writing area. This changes regularly and we ask that you support us in drawing your child's attention to the writing types and the information it is telling us, along with the letter of the week and its formation.

Our youngest children in Orange Group are making marks in lots of different ways too. They've had different materials in their tray such as sand, oats, and glitter and have been drawing with their fingers as well as using brushes and sticks. They'll be trying coloured rice in their soon – I wonder how that will feel?

Our Under 3's are learning our school routines; enjoying their group time and settling well to share a story time each day with the older children! They have been enjoying the stories 'Owl Babies' and 'The Three Little Pigs'. They will be focusing on maths experiences too, such as counting, sorting and shape recognition and enjoying exploring the outdoor area.

### What we will be learning:

It's the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch this weekend and we'll be doing our bit to take part. The children have been learning the names of different types of birds and we're going to look carefully over the next few days to see which ones visit our garden. We'll record this too in our outdoor big book. We hope you can join in too. For more information visit [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk) .

We will be looking at different types of print in menus, posters, labels and shop signs and encouraging the children to find letters they know, such as those in their name. You could do this at home too with your child. Don't forget to look at numbers too such as on clocks, front doors, bins and car number plates.

### Clothing

Please make sure you have labelled all of your child's clothing. We have a number of unnamed items in school that can't find their rightful owner!

### Diary Dates:

- 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)