**Autumn newsletter**



Most children have settled into the daily routine and enjoying the breadth of activities available to them. Take the opportunity each day to talk to your child about what they have been doing in nursery and who they have been playing with.

In the entrance hall you will find a parent’s information board and in the classroom a photographic record of all that we do. These areas will give you information about what we are doing day to day. Look out for reminders and important information which will also be posted there. All information and regular updates and photographs will be on our new website- Have a look each week!

<http://stmichaelsnurseryschool.com/>

Our regular newsletters available on our website will inform you of our themes and offer suggestions as to how you can further your child’s learning.

**Please note: Controlled access**

In the interests of the children’s safety the door is locked at 9.10am each morning. In order to ensure there is minimum disruption in Mrs Mc Allister’s class it would be much appreciated if all children are in school for 9.10am.

**Labelling uniform**: Please ensure all your children’s items are labelled- we are unable to trace an owner if their name is not clearly marked.



**Outdoor play**

We will go outside daily whatever the weather first thing. I would encourage you to help your child get into our school coats and wet gear leggings before you leave to ensure they are warm and dry before going out to play. To accommodate this and the congestion there is in the mornings we are going to stagger the start times on alternate weeks.

On the week that red class **is** on extended days they will come in at 8.45am to facilitate putting on coats etc.

On the week that blue class is **not** on an extended day they will come in at 9.00am to do the same.

This pattern will reverse the following week and so on. This will become more relevant as the days get colder/wetter.

Please note wellington boots are required that can stay in school with your child’s name marked inside.

**Extended services:** From Monday 5th October parents may leave their child to school between 8.15 and 8.30am. Mrs Cavanagh will work with the children in the quiet room at this time. A range of activities will be available such as story sacks, floor puzzles, games and songs.

Afternoon extended services are offered to each class on alternate weeks. Due to lack funding we are unable to offer this service every day and you need to check our calendar as to which days the children stay on until 2pm. This is optional and if you wish to collect your child as normal feel free to do so.

**Stay and play sessions**- From 12th October on the week that your child’s class are **not** on an extended day, the doors will be opened at 1.15pm for the last 15 minutes of the day to facilitate a stay and play session . This gives a unique opportunity for you to play alongside your child, their peers, the teacher and classroom assistants and get an insight into the quality play and learning that can be gained from very simple resources.

**Please do not bring toys to school!**

I would like to remind you that toys should not be brought into school, we have lots to play with here and we want to ensure that none of your items go missing!

**Illness**

If you are keeping your child at home due to illness or for any other reason, please let us know.

If your child has an illness that may be infectious, we would be grateful if you could keep him/her at home until infectious period has passed and the child is feeling well. We thank you for your cooperation in helping us provide a healthy environment for all!

**Please check our calendar for up coming events and diary dates- we have a very busy month ahead of us with lots of exciting things going on.**

**Supporting your child’s learning**

**Theme: Autumn and Halloween**

Colours: Associated with Autumn: yellow, brown, orange etc

During October we will be:

* Exploring the colours, shapes and patters of leaves and vegetables.
* Investigating and talking about the changes that are taking place around us in the environment.
* Eating seasonal fruit and vegetables, making soup and carving our own pumpkin.
* Planting bulbs.
* Making bonfire and fireworks pictures .
* Learning Autumn and Halloween rhymes and songs.
* Extending our language during all activities.

**You can further your child’s learning at home by**:

* Reading to your child, particularly stories about Autumn and Halloween. Why not join the local library!
* Discussing with them the changes that are taking place outside your home, on their way to school or at the park. Go out and investigate!
* Gathering chestnuts, Autumn fruits and leaves.
* Talking about vegetables, their colour, texture and taste as you prepare your meals
* Counting vegetables, comparing size, shape etc.
* Point out brown and orange items inside and outside the home.
* your child could bring something in for our interest table