December 2021

**NEWSLETTER**

Dear parent/carer,

Welcome to all our new families who have joined us over the past few months. The children have all settled really well and like all children, they are a pleasure to have in nursery.

We have had a change in our management Team with Lauren (Acting Depute) returning to her substantive post as Team Leader in Westercraigs Nursery.

It has been a busy few months in nursery. The children have been participating in learning experiences relating to risk benefit outdoors, Autumn, keeping safe and PAThS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) – this is a Curriculum which focuses on the children learning about different emotions and how to deal with them which is very important for their health and wellbeing. Staff have worked really hard to put together “Glasgow Counts family learning packs” for children who are due to go to school next year. Fiona (Lead Practitioner of Attainment) continues to work with children alongside staff to raise attainment in Literacy.

We are very much looking forward to learning about Christmas and participating in learning experiences relating to that and also the change in season from Autumn into Winter.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Marie

Head of Nursery.

Tel : 0141 771 1898

headteacher@sandaig-nursery.glasgow.sch.uk

**Christmas Celebrations**

Here are a few dates for your diary.

10th December – Christmas Jumper Day

15th December – Song and Dance factory event 1st Show 12-12.45. 2nd Show 1pm – 1.45pm. (If your child does not attend on a Wednesday, you will be advised which show they should attend)

16th December – Christmas Lunch

17th December – Christmas Parties 10am – 11.15 and 1pm – 3:15pm (If your child does not attend on a Friday, you will be advised which party they should attend)

22nd Children (on a Term Time contract finish up)

24th December – all other children finish up for the holidays.

5th January – All children return to nursery.

Please remember to provide your child with a warm jacket you don’t mind getting dirty, a pair of wellies and a warm hat, particularly when it is getting colder outside. We do have some set’s of waterproofs but not enough for all the children unfortunately. Please write your child’s name on “everything” as some children have the same jackets etc.

**Communication between parent/carers and keyworkers**

It is vital that we communicate effectively with you at this time. We will still communicate to you via the usual media eg Groupcall/Expressions app, social media etc. Please remember to update us with any change in phone numbers, email addresses etc

Remember you can call the nursery at any time to speak to keyworkers should you have any queries or concerns regarding your child.

If you are not receiving Groupcall messages, please alert Sharon in the office and she will look into that for you.

Progress Meetings

We are currently planning progress meetings for January. This will be an opportunity for you to meet personally (at last) with your child’s keyworker to discuss your child’s progress and achievements and also discuss any issues you may have or additional support your child may need.

Invitations will be sent out after the New Year.

**Seesaw**

As part of our school improvement plan, we are beginning to roll out the use of Seesaw. This is a free app which can be downloaded onto your Smart device or accessed on a computer. If you have older children at school, you may be familiar with this app. This app allows parents/carers to become more involved in their child’s learning and development.

QR codes and instructions will be getting distributed soon.

Illness

If your child displays or develops a high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of (or change in) sense of smell or taste, or who has had contact with a family/community member with these symptoms they should not attend nursery until they return a negative PCR test, not a lateral flow. These PCR results usually come back within 24 hours, so causing less disruption.

We totally appreciate that the PCR’s can be invasive and difficult to perform on young children. Some parents have decided that they do not wish to put their children through this procedure, so therefore the guidance would be the children need to stay at home for 10 days from onset of the symptom.

We appreciate that this is really inconvenient however we need to keep each other safe. We have done really well over the past 18 months with very little positive cases, but over the past two weeks we have had 3 staff having positive tests in one playroom particularly.

The children are all mixing with other children so of course they are going to catch the common cold.

We are taking a common sense approach to this. If your child has a clear, runny nose and is well, they can still attend nursery.

Obviously if your child is uncomfortable or miserable we would ask that they stay at home until well.

Please do not hesitate to call for further guidance.

If your child is not coming in to nursery, can you please call to let us know. Many thanks.

**Sponsored spooky Danceathon**

Many thanks to all who supported us in our sponsored event. The total amount raised was £1733 which was absolutely fabulous. These funds are being used to buy some much needed resources for the nursery eg Glasgow Counts resources. This cash will also pay for the entertainers coming into the nursery at Christmas and the children’s Christmas Presents.

On behalf of the staff, parents and children we would also like to thank Aventco (Cumbernauld) for their very kind donation of £1000 to the nursery. Your kindness was very much appreciated.

**Toy Fund**

Thank you to those parent/carers who have contributed towards the Toy Fund.

The toyfund will remain at £2.50 per week. Please put this in an envelope with your child’s name on it and hand it to whichever member of staff you hand your child over too. Many thanks.

**Eco Models**

Very well done to all families who were able to participate in our Eco competition. The models were fantastic and so creative.

The children voted for their winner in each playroom and we are delighted to announce that Geo Thomson won from Playroom 1 and Mya Grace Elliott won from Playroom 2.

Photos will be on the Facebook account soon.

**Christmas Raffles**

Our Christmas raffle is back by popular demand. We weren’t able to offer this last year due to COVID restrictions. This year we are starting off our Raffle with a prize for the children.

Raffle tickets will start to be sold Thursday 25th November as it needs to be drawn on 30th November.

These raffle tickets will be on sale on Thursday at a cost of 25p each. If your child isn’t in those days and you would like your child to participate, just give us a call and we will include the children in the raffle.

Following, the children’s raffle, Liz will be at the front door at peak times selling raffle tickets. Pictures of the prizes will be displayed outside. The prizes are fabulous this year.

**Triple p**

We are very fortunate that Diane is a Triple P practitioner. Should any parent wish to have the support of Diane in issues such as behaviour management, sleep routines etc please do not hesitate to ask.

Diane will be able to operate this support by telephone.

**Pre-school enrolment**

There has been a change to the “deferred entry to school” process this year. The process used to be that children who reached 4 years old in January and February could have an automatic deferred entry to school should the parent wish which meant the child could access another year of free 1140 hours childcare.

This year, Glasgow City Council along with some other councils, have agreed that all other children who have their 5th birthday on or after the first day of term in August up until the last day of February, are entitled to defer entry to school should their parents wish it and are guaranteed funding for a further year of 1140 hours of Early Learning & Childcare from August 2022. This is guaranteed because the council receive funding from the Scottish Government for places for these children.

Process

If your child has an August to February birthdate and you wish to defer their entry to school, you should discuss this with Marie in the first instance. This is so the child’s name can be added to the nursery list for August. The Council’s Customer Business Service (Early Years)will be advised of your request to defer your child and they will send a letter asking you to confirm your decision and confirm which primary school you hope your child will be attending in the future and whether you have already registered them at that school. If you confirm that you do wish to defer entry and that you have registered for school, your child’s name will be removed from the primary school list for that year and you should note, that should you change your mind at a later date, there may no longer be a place available for them at that school.

**If you are not certain whether you wish to defer entry or not, you should not confirm until later in the year when you will be asked again for a definite decision.**

I hope this makes sense……… please discuss with Marie if you need clarification.

Foodbank

We are now a referring agency for the NE foodbank. Should you need support, please do not hesitate to ask to speak to Marie or Sharon. We will of course be very discreet and no judgements will be made.

Social Media

Please follow us on Social Media.

 Sandaig Nursery  @sandaignursery

We will occasionally post photos of the children on our Social Media sites.

Please let us know if you don’t want your child’s photo used in this way.

Many thanks once again for your continued support.

Marie and the Staff Team.

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**Lets talk tip**

Leave a listening gap when you have asked a question. Children need longer to process language than adults and this gives them time to think.

Get their **ATTENTION**

Make sure you have the child’s attention, by saying their name first, when you want to talk together. It’s better to say “Ryan come here” than “Come here Ryan”

# Lets talk Maths Tip

It’s never too early to explore numbers with your child. Real life often provides the best opportunities to develop early maths skills like counting and recognising numbers. These ideas will help your child to explore numbers, giving them a great start to developing early maths skills and concepts.

**Talk about numbers around you**

**Numbers are all around us**, from calendars to the remote control, the telephone to car registration plates. Try pointing out numbers when you’re out and about – on front doors, signs, the front of buses and train platforms. Talking about numbers around you early and often will show your child that numbers are part of everyday life. Choose a ‘Number of the Week’ and see how many times you can spot this number, around the house, out in the street or in the supermarket.

**Lets talk Reading Tip**

The early reading skills your child will learn at this age are an important foundation for starting school.

The focus at this age is on sharing stories, songs, and rhymes together and building talking and listening skills. Luckily, there are lots of fun and easy ways to encourage early reading success at home.

**Talk about books, words, and pictures**

Before you start reading a book, talk about the title and the pictures on the cover (front and back). Ask your child what they think the story might be about. After reading, ask your child what they liked about the story.

Try asking ‘how’ and ‘why’ questions about the story and the pictures. For example:

‘How did the bear get across the river?’

‘Why was the fox cross?’

**Good Luck!**