

FEBRUARY  
2022



Welcome to our February newsletter...

**Children's Mental Health Week** is between 7<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> February this year and the theme is 'Growing Together'. At Nursery, we will be looking at how we have grown, what we could do when we were little and what we would like to be able to do when we are bigger. The older children will be drawing themselves again, to show progression - they first drew themselves in September.

As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. More information is available here: [Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](http://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

It is also **Safer Internet Day** on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February and the theme this year is 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online' and is about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. Top tips for families are available here: [Top Tips for under 11s - UK Safer Internet Centre](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Latalya-Rose, Bridget, Nevae, Charley-Joe and Annielou who are celebrating their birthdays in February. We hope you all have a lovely time ☺

*More new friends have joined... a very warm welcome to Tyler, Hailey and Milena-Mae... exciting times ahead!*

**Your child's safety is very important to us...**

Please avoid driving down the approach to the school as this puts other children and parents at risk. We would also appreciate it if you could use the laybys and be mindful about our neighbours when parking - please avoid their driveways and the grass verges. Please remind all adults that drop off and collect your children.

**Thank you for your continuing support.**

**School Fund...**

On behalf of staff and children, I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for your voluntary donations to our School Fund. You have paid for the children's healthy daily snacks as well as food items to celebrate the Luna (Chinese) New Year and birthday gifts for the children. We also bought some lovely books about feelings from Aldi that were just £1.99 each.

Children currently attending school can pay their weekly contribution directly into our school bank account: Account number: 20101478 Sort code: 20-09-44 We suggest contributions of £2 per week for children attending 30 hours and £1 per week for children attending 15 hours or less.

**Easy Fundraising...**

Many thanks to those of you that are supporting us when online shopping. Since setting our account up in November 2020, our supporters have raised over £260. It is really easy to sign up and just click on a link before choosing your online retailer. For those of you who do your grocery shopping online, Asda are currently donating £1.25 when you place an order! <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/acletclosenursery/>  
The donation to school is often just pennies, but it does add up and it is all spent on the children.

**Useful websites...**

[Parents and Carers - Children's Mental Health Week \(childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk\)](http://childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

[Top Tips for under 11s - UK Safer Internet Centre](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Lisa Jenkins Head Teacher

### Opportunities for the children

#### Swimming lessons...

Swimming sessions for our older children at Woodhouse Close Leisure Centre are going really well; we are so proud of the children and can see progress already in just a few weeks. There is a lot of organising behind the scenes, to enable this opportunity to take place. We are required to submit numbers of children and staff beforehand and we ask you to help us by letting us know if your child is not going (we don't need a reason) and payment must be made/cleared by 10am on the morning of the lesson. For safety reasons, it is important that the staff fully concentrate on the children; therefore money should not be handed over at the leisure centre.

#### Little Chefs, Big Chefs...

You may notice some green crates full of bread and bakery items placed under the canopy on a Tuesday morning. Little Chefs, Big chefs collect from local supermarkets and redistribute via their pantry at St Helens (and some to us) in order to reduce land fill waste. Please help yourself - the food will be fine to eat that day or will usually freeze well.

#### Seeds and growing...

A big thank you to Pip from The School Seed Bank for donating lots of seeds; the children will love planting and looking after them and seeing them grow.

**Wish list...** do you have any baking trays/bun tins that you don't need any more? We would be glad to take these off your hands!

#### School uniform...

is optional and available from Cre8tive (12 Peel Street, Bishop Auckland. Tel: 664097). You can call in the shop at your own convenience throughout the year. Business cards are available from the office. Our school jumper colours are red or navy blue.

#### Governors' news...

##### Welcome...

Miss Barker joined our team last month. She is an experienced Teaching Assistant and is working alongside Mrs Steggles and Miss Garvey in our 2s room.

Governors are delighted to let you know that an Admin Officer has been appointed and will start on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February. More details to follow. We thank you all for your patience whilst we haven't been fully staffed.

##### Monitoring...

During the Spring term Governors will be continuing their monitoring roles, looking at how Early Years Pupil Premium funding is being spent and completing the School's Financial Value Standard as well as reviewing how we support our children with Special Educational Needs including reviewing our 'Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs' Policy.

##### Parent Governor role...

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. Training and support is provided. Please ring the office for a chat with Mrs Jenkins if you are interested.

#### Dates for your diary

- *Wednesdays - swimming lessons - please pay fee by 10am and let us know if your child isn't swimming*
- *Friday 18<sup>th</sup> Feb: School breaks up for half term*
- *Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb: School reopens to children*
- *Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April: School breaks up for Easter*
- *Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April: School reopens*
- *Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: School closed - Bank Holiday*
- *Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May: School closed for staff training (4<sup>th</sup> of 5)*
- *Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May: School closes for May half term*
- *Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May: School closed for Queen's Jubilee (additional Bank Holiday)*
- *Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June: School closed for staff training (5<sup>th</sup> of 5)*
- *Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June: School reopens for children*
- *Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July: School closes for Summer break*