

Autumn / Winter News



Settling in

We would all like to say a huge thank you for helping to support the new way of settling the children back into the setting, and for our new starters at the start of their adventures.

We know that the dropping off and picking up from outside the setting is a big change for everyone but we would like to assure you that this is not only working in terms of minimising covid in the setting, but that the children have been absolutely amazing and have taken to it with ease. In fact as a setting we have seen a drop in upset and anxious feelings at drop off. This is obviously down to the way you as parents/carers are supporting this change —so thank you all.

Inside the setting

We are learning or relearning our rules and routines through a range of resources. From our walking feet, kind hands and listening ears—I am sure some of you will have already had many craft items relating to this.

We are also looking at ourselves and differences and what makes us special.

Our Letters and Sounds aspect is currently a mix of Listening to both a range of sounds in the environment and instrumental sounds really tuning into what we hear which is the foundation of being able to differentiate letter sounds.



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Key Dates

5/11/2020 outdoor day

**AGM (Virtual event)
Thursday 12th November 7.30 link to follow.**

13/11/2020 Children in need.

17/12/20 Closed from 12PM for Christmas break.

6/1/21 first day new term.

If you have a recognised celebration/ festival that you would like us to acknowledge, please let a member of the team know.

Playleader position

I would like to update you all that Rachel will be leaving us on Friday the 13th November as she moves forward with her career to manage a large day nursery. I am sure you will all join us in wishing her the very best for the future but will agree that she will be a big loss and missed by us all at preschool. I am pleased to announce that we have recruited Charlotte who is a qualified teacher and will be joining our team as playleader at the end of the month.

Outdoor Learning Day

Thursday 5th November is National outdoor learning day and we will try to spend as much of the day together as possible, if your child attends on a Thursday please ensure they wear appropriate clothing for being outdoors.

AGM

The AGM is an important date in the preschool calendar. For obvious reasons this year it will be held virtually. It would be great for as many families as possible to attend. A link for zoom will be emailed and texted out by the end of this week.

Children in need

We will be supporting children in need on Friday the 13th November and invite the children to attend preschool either wearing something spotty or their PJs. We will leave a bucket/tin outside to collect suggested £1 donations.

Home Learning

Physical Development—Health and Self Care is one of the prime areas of learning within the early years foundation stage. Ideas to support physical development (independence) at home

include:-

Putting Coats on— Children often use the “super hero” method, which involves putting the hood on their head and putting their arms through after.



Physical development

Support your child in being able to ‘have a go’ at opening lunch items, techniques to try and lots of positive praise regardless of the outcome.

Letters and Sounds — Listening walks.—When out and about see how many different things you can hear.

Working Together

We will continue to where possible post small jobs outside that parents and children can support us with to keep our preschool clean tidy and will look to do this in a covid safe way.

We understand the importance of working closely with families, you know your child best. Please try and keep your key person informed of any changes in your home life such as a new baby, moving house or losing a pet. You may think things are trivial but they can have an impact on your child’s day.

We do want everyone to know that should you ever have any questions/ concerns you can still speak to your key person. If your key person is unavailable or you would prefer to talk to somebody else Rachel or George are always available either in person, phone or email. We appreciate this is harder on drop off/pick up and not always as ‘instant’ as it was before but will do our absolute best to keep a high level of communication to meet everyone's needs.

Covid-19

We are continuing to adapt to these unprecedented times we all face.

If your child has any of the following symptoms , you will need to get a test and stay at home until you get the result:-

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of taste or smell

Most people with coronavirus have at least one of these symptoms.

Children will only be able to attend preschool after displaying the above symptoms on result of a negative test and if they are feeling clinically well.

After a positive test your child will need to isolate for at least 10 days, If a member of the household tests positive your child will need to isolate for 14 days.

If a child presents any of the above symptoms, we will call and ask you to collect your child from preschool. In order to keep staff and families safe you must be available to collect your child within 45 minutes from the time called.

We appreciate theses are difficult times and that keeping your child home without knowing the cause can be frustrating. The safety of children, families and staff is our top priority and we will continue to follow the current advice and guidelines from the Government and the Department of Education throughout the pandemic.

Communication throughout Covid-19

We would like to reassure families that whilst we are having to operate differently at drop off and collection, all staff are still available to talk to. If we cannot come out and chat immediately we will arrange a mutually convenient time and method to ensure we maintain our high levels of communication.

Strategies taken from the lets talk more information to support communication.



- Spend some time every day playing and talking with your child without any noise in the background e.g. TV.
- Aim for about 15 minutes at a time , maybe bath time, meal times or when reading a story.
- When its quiet your child will be more likely to notice every day noises such as a dog barking or a passing bus. As you hear the noise point it out and discuss with your child. This helps children to make sense of the sounds that they hear.

Why ?

Young children are unable to block out background noise like an adult can.

Having some quiet time with you each day will help them to learn to:-

- Tune in and listen to you.
- Concentrate.
- Understand words and sentences.
- Use words themselves.
- Build the skills they need to read and write.

Christmas Cards

Every Christmas we encourage each of the children to make a Christmas card to send home. We will still be doing this as it has always been such a success. We take very small groups of children to the post box next to St Michaels school to post their cards. The children are then able to see the whole process from crafting the card to the receiving in the post. In order for this to continue each year we ask that each child brings in a stamped addressed envelope between now and the 11th December.

Polite reminders

Please remember to social distance yourselves outside the setting in line with government advice to help to protect and safeguard our setting. We have put in place staggered start times of 9.15-9.30 and collection 2.45-3 to support this. Please arrive promptly at 12 or 1 as normal.

Lunch times – We talk about healthy life styles and that we must eat our fruit before our treat, therefore its really important that children have a piece of fruit or veg. We are aware not all children like fruit but please put something in their lunch box even if it is just one carrot stick or a slice of cucumber. We also have a very strict no nut policy which must be adhered to. Items that state they contain nuts will have to be sent back home with the child.

Please also remember a drink for your child at lunch times.

In order to help your children to become more confident and independent, please ensure you dress them in clothes that they can manage independently such as tracksuit bottoms, leggings, velcro shoes etc. Dungarees and vests with poppers are tricky for children who are starting to toilet train.

We are currently asking for all snacks to be provided by parents/carers and ask that these be in the appropriate morning or afternoon snack box.

Parking—Please do not park on or block the preschool drive at any time.

Committee—Christmas Card Fundraiser

Please remember to return your children's Christmas Card template designs to the folder outside preschool by Friday 6th November. There are lots of gifts that your child's picture can be turned into and prices start at £2.25.

If you are interested in joining our committee please speak to our chair Lizzie Johns or George.

Best wishes the Preschool team.

