



## NEWS - September/October 2018

A very warm welcome and a big "WELL DONE" to all the children who have started **Monkstown Nursery School**. The welcome also extends to our parents, grandparents, child minders and friends who get the children here on time and collect them at home time. The children have had so much to take in and learn over the past few weeks and have settled extremely well. We should all be very proud of them! Don't forget if you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to talk to us, no matter how trivial you think your concerns may be. We hope to work with you as partners, so we can provide the very best in early years' education for all our children.



The purpose of these newsletters is to keep you informed about what is happening in the nursery. Through them, we will let you know what themes we are working on and our specific focus. We would welcome any suggestions you may have about the content of these newsletters. We would also like to know if you have a talent or skill you wish to share with the children, so please do let us know - we would welcome any contributions which you feel could add to the children's education.



**Ms Acheson**  
Part Time Room  
Teacher.  
Deputy Designated  
Teacher  
for Child Protection



**Mrs Doyle**  
Classroom Assistant



**Mrs Owen**  
Classroom Assistant



**Mrs Crowe**  
Classroom Assistant



**Ms Wilson**  
Principal  
Full Time Room  
Teacher.  
Designated  
Teacher for  
Child Protection

Each half term we will have a curricular focus. This does not mean this will be the only time children will be taught these specific curricular areas. Children in nursery are able to experience all aspects of the nursery curriculum throughout the year, but we feel it is important to make the children aware of their learning goals by focusing on specific areas each half term.

### Nursery Themes

Our main themes over these two months are Making Friends and Nursery Rhymes/Fairy Stories. Children of all ages enjoy listening to and being involved in rhyme. The repetitive language and rhythms of these rhymes provide a solid basis for encouraging early literacy skills. Do get involved and enjoy talking to your child about the rhymes they do in the nursery and about your own favourite nursery rhymes - don't forget to ask your child to show you the actions to our rhymes and songs!

### Nursery Focus

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development-** We are focusing on settling in to nursery which includes: - getting to know our teacher and classroom assistant; becoming familiar with our Sunshine Rules; beginning to develop self-help skills.

**Physical Development-** We are focusing on safely navigating our way round our environment, both indoors and outdoors. We are learning where to find and park our bikes and how to travel safely. We are also learning how to climb/pedal/slide showing an awareness of others.

**Literacy-** We are focusing on attention and listening development. The children are learning to sit quietly and listen to a short story and to others speaking.

Our listening rules are - **good sitting, quiet lips, looking eyes, listening ears, hand up to speak.**

**Maths-** Our colour for September is **YELLOW** and in October we will focus on **ORANGE** and **BROWN** items in our environment. During this half term our shape focus will be **CIRCLE**. Please encourage and help your child to observe these colours and shape in their home environments too.



## REMINDERS



- Please ensure all of your child's uniform and his/her coat are clearly labelled with his/her name and please remember to bring in a change of clothes for your child to leave in school. Also, Please make sure your child brings a coat to school every day.
- Please remember to check your child's drawer every day for notes from the school and to take home all their beautiful art work etc!
- Please remember to bring in one box of tissues -Thank You!
- Please take care when parking near the nursery gates and show consideration to local residents. Please do not obstruct residents' driveways.
- If you wish to bring in a birthday cake for your child, please speak to Ms Acheson in advance, due to a range of allergies.
- The special photograph book you have made with your child has been a great success. Thank you all so much for the enormous effort you have put in to making them. They have enabled us to get to know your child a little better and have served as a valuable talking point and 'settling in' tool. If you have not already done so, please return these as soon as possible as the children really enjoy looking through them
- Reminder - School Fund is £4 per week or £32 to half-term. Please ensure that all money is in a labelled envelope with your child's name, amount and reason for money (eg. School fund, school trip etc).



Dates for  
the Diary:

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October** - Visit to the nursery from 'World of Owls'.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October** - No part-time sessions. Ms Acheson continuing with parent/teacher meetings.

**29<sup>th</sup> October- 2nd November** - Half Term Holiday.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November** - No part-time sessions. Ms Acheson continuing with parent/teacher meetings.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November** - Abbots Cross Primary school play date. 9.30am-11.00am

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November** - Pantomime visit (Morning Session). There will be no afternoon session.

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November** - Pantomime visit (Afternoon Session). There will be no morning session.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November** - Nursery open morning-current children do not attend nursery.

**URGENT**



We have a number of important jobs urgently needing to be done in our outdoor area. Unfortunately, our reduced budget does not allow for these to be done professionally. If you would be willing to give up some of your time from 9.00am-10.00am any weekday to help with any of the jobs listed below, please fill in and return the form which will be sent home with your child.

**We would be extremely grateful!**

- 1) Cleaning outdoor area
- 2) Weeding
- 3) Cutting back hedging / bushes

## The Big Bedtime Read

We have been successful in our application for funding to take part in the Education Authority's Big Bedtime Read Programme.

The aims of the programme are:-

- To explore the importance of reading to young children
- To share ideas about how to enjoy a book with your child
- To provide resources to support bedtime reading!



From the 4<sup>th</sup> October, your child will be given a book bag every **THURSDAY** to take home. This will contain 5 books for you to read with your child at night. The bag should be brought back to nursery the following **TUESDAY** so your child can receive a new bag that week.

The programme will run for 26 weeks and we would ask that you fill in the questionnaire inside the first bag and return it with the bag.

We look forward to working with you to positively impact your child's development.

The children are responding positively to the rules and routines of the nursery. We have included another copy of the nursery's **Sunshine Rules** for you to go over with your child. The purpose of these rules is to ensure that the nursery is a happy and secure place for all the children. Our main focus over the next two months will be on these rules and the nursery routine.

### Our Sunshine Rules



**We play safely and fairly.**

Language we use when explaining this rule to the children:

We look after the toys.

We tidy up, brush up and pick up.

We share and take turns.

We have safe walking feet.



**We are kind and helpful.**

Language we use when explaining this rule to the children:

We have kind hands and use kind words

We listen to people.

We say please and thank you.

If our friend is not being kind we can say, "**Please stop, I don't like that.**"

We can tell an adult if we are not happy.



**We are always busy.**

Language we use when explaining this rule to the children:

We try our best.

We finish our activity.