Nursery Newsletter – September

We hope you all had a great summer! 😊 We are glad to be back, welcoming our new children into the nursery as well as welcoming back those already with us.

Here is our newsletter for the month of September. If you have any questions relating to any of the following information, please do not hesitate to approach a member of staff 😊

**Holidays and in-service days**

The October Holidays will start from Monday the 14th to the 25th October.

Friday the 11th October is an in-service day, so will be closed to pupils.

**Dates for your Diaries**

**Stay and Play sessions are going to begin on Monday 30th September to the 4th October**, from 9-10.30am. Parents and extended family are invited to come into nursery. Little siblings are also welcome under your care. This will allow you all to see what we are learning in nursery and the different activities and experiences we offer. A timetable will be displayed two weeks prior to this where you can write which time suits you best.

**What we are working on?**

We are focusing on settling back into nursery after the summer holidays – giving children the chance to become familiar with our nursery rules and routines, such as handwashing, preparing snack, discussing and creating our own nursery rules. Small group activities and discussions and sitting down at the snack table with peers gives the children the opportunity to form friendships.

The children have also been involved in creating our own **Risk Assessment Book**. This encourages the children to think about risks and how these can be reduced; responsibility and independence. Our Risk Assessment Book will be displayed in nursery, so feel free to have a look.

We have been looking at families in nursery recently, after observing conversations between children. Black line drawings and discussions have been taking place and **we ask if you could bring in some pictures of your family to display on our family wall.**

Our Wellbeing wall is displayed in nursery which supports the four Curriculum For Excellence Capacities (responsible citizens, successful learners, effective contributors and confident individuals). This display will help encourage kindness; responsibility; independence and more. Learning Links with home environment - Any discussions at home around this can be added to the wall so please feel free to share them with the staff. Some examples could be – road safety; tidying away once we are finished; cleaning up spills, etc.

Parent Contribution

**We are still looking for items that we can add to our indoor and outdoor environment.** These include – tyres; planks of wood; tree stumps; cuttings from trees; pipes and guttering, and any other items you feel are suitable. If you have any items you could bring in, this would be very much appreciated. These items are all considered ‘Loose Parts’ and promote children’s use of their imagination – you can find out more about loose parts through this link - <https://www.playscotland.org/wp-content/uploads/Loose-Parts-Play-A-Toolkit-pdf.pdf>

A **‘suggestion box’** will be displayed at the Nursery entrance door for any suggestions you may have which can help us improve our nursery.

There will also be a **Monthly Question** displayed at the nursery entrance. A YES or NO question will be asked to help us understand your views as stakeholders in our improvement plan journey for this year. Our 3 areas of Improvement are – Parent Partnerships, Environment and Planning, tracking and monitoring. Our monthly question will link with one of the 3 areas and your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Any changes made because of your suggestions and opinions will be shared with you 😊

We welcome parents to have a look at our **Planning Board** (displayed on the wall as you enter the nursery classroom) and add any ideas you may have (what your child is interested in, what they are working on at home), this gives us the chance to make links with home and to ensure children’s interests are being explored fully.

The **Achievement Tree** is displayed on the window inside the nursery where children achievements are added. Please let us know if your child has taken part in anything out with nursery or has achieved something. This can range from – zipping up their own jacket; getting change; swimming with no arm bands; joining a class; sleeping in their own bed. If you would like to write your own, then please just ask a member of staff for a leaf to write on 😊

**Tiny Targets**

As part of our ongoing assessment in nursery, we are going to be introducing ‘Tiny Targets’ by the end of this term. These are small achievable targets based on our 3 main learning areas – Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy.

The staff will decide on targets in 3 ways – by observing your children within the class, by discussing with the children what they would like to achieve, and by sharing this information with yourselves so you can contribute any ideas of your own, based on your knowledge within the home environment. These targets will then be set and will be worked on both within the nursery setting and at home with your help. We will send out more information about this when we are setting these targets in the near future!

**Reminders**

**Outdoor clothing** – we ask if you can provide clothing for all weathers such as welly boots, waterproofs and outdoor jackets to allow the children to participate in spontaneous outdoor learning.

**All About me booklets –** Please ensure the ‘All about me’ profiles are updated and taken back into nursery. This provides us with information on the needs and interests of your child.

Thank you

Rhynie Nursery Staff

Angela and Fiona