

Sacred Heart Primary School Nursery

Spring Newsletter 2018

Time flies when you're having fun...

Our winter term was certainly fun filled and adventure packed providing a rich and relevant learning environment within the key curricular areas of literacy, numeracy, science and health and wellbeing, with the added bonus of maximum amounts of fun and exploration.

We would like to express our sheer delight and appreciation of our children's love of performing and acknowledge what wonderful plays the morning session are putting on. Continual experience has enabled them to become confident performers and bring life to their characters with such ease and expression. Some children have taken a further confident step to become the narrator and they can tell the story to a live audience at Sing-Along- Time. The afternoon children have favoured developing their understanding of stories through designing masks and telling the story as they make them or choosing to use them in their role play games, becoming their characters and creating their story. The children have recently started to create stories together at story time using props from around the nursery. These props provide the starting point of the story. They are often based on a story/film they know but develop a life of their own as their imaginations run and they contribute together. Some children choose to be a very enthralled audience. This is a very valuable and progressive aspect of learning early literacy in early years.

“creativity is the essence of being human and is fundamental to learning. Creativity enables children to make connections between their inner world of feelings and their outer world of things and experiences” (Helen Tovey.2013)

We would highly recommend that you keep looking at the evolving responsive planning wall or the floor books in the cloak room to keep up to date with the key themes the children have been participating in. These develop in direct response to their play interests or conversations, sometimes even from what we learn they have been interested in at home.

Each child has their own learning journal which highlights their personal journeys, we hope you have all enjoyed having them home and please feel free to look at them anytime in nursery. We are always available to chat about your child should you wish to. Our stay and play sessions give you that added time to talk and interact with your child in nursery and get a feel for what is going on. The dates are on the parent wall but can be adapted to suit your personal needs, if necessary, so don't hesitate to ask. We have now started to take our journals to share with Linda at the library. This is a great way for our children to tell their very own stories.

Engaging boys...

Thank you to everyone who spoke to us or returned the reply slip regarding this topic. There hasn't been a significant need for any informal meeting to discuss this issue. The general

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consensus has been that everyone is comfortable with how we will approach this aspect of play in the future. We will carry on as planned knowing that we have the support of our parent community and would like to emphasise that we are always open to continuing dialogue if it is needed. Again, please feel free at any time to discuss any issues or observations you have regarding this topic or your child's experiences in nursery.

Termly Presentations...

We appreciate that it is hard to commit to or remember what is going on out with family life, therefore, I will not be offering a talk this term and free us all up to enjoy the spring evenings.

Nursery Café...

Wow, what a big hit the nursery café has been! Thank you to everyone for coming. It has been so heart-warming for us to have you all round the table sharing lunch and chatting. If you haven't been yet and you are free anytime come and join us. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us and allow us to spread our wings and picnic on the field. We did make a date error in April and would like to add in May 4th for our next café. The other dates are on the parent board. We will tweak the starting time to 11.40am, just when the morning session finishes, to avoid any hanging around so afternoon families feel free to join in a bit earlier and we can rearrange the tables and chairs together if we are staying in.

What's to come...?

Butterflies and continuing science experiments have been two hot topics before we broke for our holidays and the children will return with fresh inspired thoughts from their holidays for us to tap into.

Spring offers a lot of awareness and interest in new life and growth as the world outdoors bursts in to colour and life. So we will be investigating these aspects of the world around us. Our garden becomes the place to be as children enjoy extended times outdoors. Please be mindful of the weather before coming to nursery. Our children do stay outside for as long as they wish in whatever weather we have. Hopefully everyone will remember to wear clothes that don't mind getting dirty. Old clothes allow the children to relax and fully engage in their play. Jackets may still be needed, wellie boots or even suncream and hats (we hope) as we embrace the much needed spring/summer season. Just to make you aware, some of our children have been asking to take their shoes off when dressing up inside and stay barefooted or outdoors when appropriate in the sand pit. To be without shoes is another very important aspect of child development as it educates the child's senses in a very profound way. Our policy is to discuss risk with the children and remind them of what would be safe and not so safe if being bare/sock footed has been requested. If this raises any

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concerns please talk to us and we hope you will be ok if socks are not so clean. No socks will be worn outside it has to be feet or shoes. Similarly socked feet need to be worn inside

Transition...

This term has the potential to be very emotional for many of our preschool children and adults alike. The children are very used to moving around the school on a regular basis and play in the bigger playground and field. Sacred Heart School allows the nursery children to feel included and have a strong sense of familiarity from the beginning of their time with us. Towards the end of term we did start to include aspects of transition by having gym sessions. We will progress in other activities in the school or with P1 as the weeks go by.

The school will inform parents of official meetings on transition and we will arrange parent consultations and a moving on ceremony in due course. We will arrange a wee something for the children who are staying with us too.

Our topic, 'Feelings February', gave our children opportunities to identify, discuss and be aware of emotions in themselves and others. We will continue to develop this aspect of learning which we hope will give our children support and resources for this change as we progress through the term.

We would like to point out that it is not uncommon for our children in these changing times to become out of sorts either emotionally or behaviourally as they sense change is upon them. This can be the way that they communicate their inner, sometimes unknown, feelings.

Summer trip...

Traditionally we have a summer whole nursery family trip. Last year we went in May to East Links Family Park. It was very enjoyable as there were less people around which allowed everyone to relax more and have a great day together. If we go this year we would like to organise our trip for the end of May. However, we would like to suggest that we break from this tradition and create a day together either locally or at school where we can spend time and activities altogether. This would happen in June. This is in response to how well our café is creating our community and bringing us together in a meaningful way. We are in the process of researching possibilities for this type of day. However, we need to know if it is something that you all like the sound of and would enjoy doing.

So we have two proposals:

- 1 to go on a trip
- 2 to create a day and participate all together as a nursery community

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If we choose a day trip option 1.

East Links Family Park or Almond Valley Family Park are very popular places to go, however, maybe someone has a different idea of where to go. Has anyone got any other suitable ideas? If so please let us know soon.

We will do a vote so that everyone's opinion is included. However, like all democratic processes, the majority vote will be where we go. Instead of sending you a form for the above questions we will ask you next week at the door and keep a note of responses and let you all know what the outcome is.

Home time...

One last request we need your help at pick up times. We would be so grateful if you could encourage your children to leave when you arrive to pick them up unless you wish to talk to us. The games/songs that we are doing are time fillers waiting for parents to come as we have been doing activities together for a while before you arrive and your child is not missing out on anything even though it is hard to leave when fun is still going on. This will help us have time to do the necessary behind the scene work and not lose our personal time. Thank you for your understanding.

That's all from us for now.

Mrs Owenson and Mrs McInulty