



St. Michael's Nurseries

Chatter

Where children blossom and grow



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2024



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January Newsletter 2024

Welcome back to the New Year everyone, and how lovely to hear the excited chatter from the children as they returned!

We look forward to welcoming new families to our setting in January and pleased to see the smooth transition for those children who have moved on to their next room



We also welcome on board Kim, from the Learning Journey, who will be joining us alternate Wednesdays to bring a mathematical twist to our Forest Learning (Nursery is please to fund this session) . Katie and Kim are busy planning outdoor



fun covering aspects from number, to shape, to measure and counting. Kim is a qualified teacher who travels North Devon in her Learning Journey bus , bringing learning to home schooled children as her passengers! We look forward to number fun with you Kim!



As part of our Maths Champion programme, we are looking to build a box of timepieces for children to explore. If you have any unwanted clocks, watches, timers, egg timers, stop watches, digital and traditional versions (working or not working) we would love to have them please. Children see less clocks in their environment now with the time being shown on phones and gadgets around the house, so we want to explore timepieces with them . Please help us make a Box of Clocks!!



This month we congratulate Amy P on her fifth anniversary at St. Michael's Nursery progressing from apprentice to Team Leader during this time as well as a wedding and birth of her first baby!

Just to remind families we are preparing for the launch of Two Year Old Funding for working families in April, and children have brought home forms for completion and return. A follow up letter of information from DCC was also sent out on Saturday 20th January. Thank you for your patience as we update you when we have news from DCC and please do ask us if you need any help with applications or completions of the paperwork.



Don't forget the roadworks at Cedars Roundabout are starting on 22nd Jan and will be with us for 20 weeks, so this may mean a few changes to travel for families to ensure arriving at nursery on time !

Please could we remind families not to send in juice for their child to drink at nursery, as we have children with various health conditions who would become poorly if they picked up your child's drink by mistake. With very few children in our care registered with a dentist, oral care becomes even more important so avoiding sugary drinks and drinking juice from bottles, will help protect them from early tooth decay. Head over to our website for up to date NHS advice. Our latest addition is all about bottles, cups and dummies. <https://www.stmichaels-nursery.org/moreonoffer>



With an increase in cases of Measles in the UK, please check with your Health Visitor for information about vaccines for your child. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>



LADYBIRDS & BUTTERFLIES



We kick start January with a brand new exciting theme - the magical world of Fairytales and Mythical Creatures. We have been loving the Julia Donaldson books 'Zog', 'The Gruffalo' and 'Room on the Broom'. Lots of exciting invitations to play and explore include spaghetti & rice on the sensory table, oats to scoop and make our own 'Gruffalo Crumble', paints, glue, paper, large tweezers and large bowls.



DRAGONFLIES



Dragonflies have had a wonderful month embracing winter is all its glory. We have wrapped up warm and played in the garden and woodland area. Some of the children took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and enjoyed spotting many resident birds including 'Rosie Crow' and 'Robbie Robin'! The children worked collaboratively using wheel barrows to gather sticks of different sizes to make a giant nest.

The theme this month has been 'Fairytales and Mythical Creatures'. The children have made beautiful displays based on Julia Donaldson's 'ZOG' and the wonderful story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. One of the most exciting invitations to explore was a large tray with hay, sticks and foam bricks. They were invited to explore the materials and make houses, just like the Three Little Pigs!

Please can we remind parents/carers to provide named spare clothes. We also ask for a named water bottle. We always appreciate donations of spare clothes, in particular trousers/leggings. Thank you.



KINDERGARTEN



Kindergarten have been very creative with their art resources. They have been using their imagination to design their very own dragons, fairies and mer-people. The children used recyclable resources to make collages for the display wall. They have also enjoyed the story Jack and the Beanstalk.

Some of the children made icicle adornments for the tree made with natural objects and twine. The Ice Age took over the garden and the children had great fun playing with the dinosaurs in the icy small world area.



ECO-HEROES - NEWS



St. Michael's
Nursery



During Outdoor Learning, we took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch to help collate numbers of UK garden birds visiting our garden.

The children have loved gathering twigs, sticks, leaves and branches to make their own nests. We have plenty of nature books, helping us with information such as identifying the birds and learning about their appearance, habitat and diet. The children have been using binoculars and bird ID sheets, ticking off which birds that they have spotted in the garden and woodland area. We were fortunate to have a real bird's nest, (that was old and disused for many years), for the children to handle and learn how to use gentle hands.

We recorded starlings, wood pigeons, crows, herring gulls, robin, wren and a magpie. Katie 'Fox' told us the story about Margaret Magpie and how and why all the birds make their nests a little different.

Dates for your Diary/Notices:

HALF TERM: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February



**Remember...I
don't need to
rinse my mouth
out with water
after brushing
my teeth**



<https://www.facebook.com/ccsdentalhealthcare>



St. Michael's Nursery

in partnership with
Devon
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