January 2016

Staghills Nursery School Newsletter

JANUARY 2016 HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you have any questions or need any further information, please ask a
member of staff. We are always happy to discuss any issues with you so
please do ask!!

We would like to welcome all
children and families back to
nursery and hope that all our new
children will settle well into nursery
life.

TIMELINESS

Please be on time to
collect your child
from nursery. Our
staff only get 40
minutes for lunch, and
if you’re late collecting
your child in the morning they get
less time to have their lunch. Staff
do not get paid to work late so if
you’re late collecting in the
afternoon session, then staff give up
their own time to wait with your
child.
CONTACT DETAILS

Did you get a new phone for Christmas? Please can you make sure that we always have your most up to date contact details in case we need to get hold of you, for example if your child becomes ill whilst at nursery, or if we have to close the school unexpectedly. This is especially important if you change your mobile number. Please also inform us if your designated collectors change and give us their contact details.

ATTENDANCE

Nursery school gives your children a valuable start to their education. Attending regularly helps children & families get into a good routine ready for primary school and will help your child learn how to make friends and play well with other children. We have also found that regular attendance at nursery helps children develop a wide range of skills, including language & communication skills. All these factors make starting primary school much easier for children, prepares them for learning and helps them to fulfil their potential.

Regularly attending nursery gives children the opportunity to develop skills at their own pace and mix with others of their own age. Establishing regular routines for your children at an early age is extremely important. It will benefit you and your children as they progress through their school life, and limit the chances of poor school attendance, which will have a negative effect on their enjoyment and achievement. Where children’s attendance at nursery school is less than 85%, we will investigate the reasons for the lower attendance and set targets for improvement. If your child is not attending regularly please ask our outreach team for help and support.

PLEASE CALL US TO LET US KNOW IF YOUR CHILD WON’T BE ATTENDING NURSERY FOR ANY REASON. IF WE DON’T KNOW WHY THEY’RE NOT HERE, WE WILL WORRY.
Outdoor Learning

You will soon be getting some information about how we are timetabling children to go out in the forest school and allotment.

Being outdoors has a positive impact on children’s sense of wellbeing and helps all aspects of children’s development. Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses and be physically active and exuberant. Being outdoors gives children first hand contact with weather, fresh air, the changing seasons and the natural world. Sue and Angela are both qualified and experienced forest school leaders and they will link with staff to plan the sessions and we know that children really learn well in these small nurturing groups.

We are in the process of further developing our outdoors and eagerly await a new climbing structure and gazebo in the allotment.
Benefits of Playing Outdoors

Learning outside the classroom supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles by offering children opportunities for physical activity, freedom and movement, and promoting a sense of well-being. It gives them contact with the natural world and offers them experiences that are unique to outdoors, such as direct contact with the weather and the seasons. Outdoor play also supports children’s problem-solving skills and nurtures their creativity, as well as providing rich opportunities for their developing imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness. And, of course, the outdoor environment offers more space than indoors and so is particularly important to those children who learn best through active movement. Playing outdoors at nursery enables children to play safely and freely while they learn to assess risk and develop the skills to manage new situations.

There are lots of cheap and free activities you can play with your children outside...you could play football in the park; find a big puddle when it’s been raining and see who can make the biggest splash by jumping in with your welly’s on; have a teddy bear’s picnic; or you could go on an insect inspection: take out your magnifying glass (you can buy them at the pound shop) and go for a walk to see what you can find. Look around in all the places they could be hiding. Check under leaves and in flowers to look for caterpillars and butterflies having their lunch. What else can you find? Try under rocks or logs on the ground and peeling back the bark on trees to see if there are any insects hiding underneath.
Parents often ask if we will keep their children from playing outside because they might catch a cold. A cold is a virus that is passed from person to person. There is more chance of catching a cold if you are sitting close together inside than when moving about outside. There is no evidence that children can catch a cold from being outside in the fresh air.

When children are on the move outside, they are filling their lungs with clean air rather than breathing in air that is continually circulating around their classroom. Some parents worry that their child’s asthma may get worse by being active and being out of breath from running. Activity can be the key to helping asthmatic children strengthen their lungs and build up their immune system. Asthma experts advise children to use their inhaler before exercise, so if your child uses an inhaler please send it to school with them. In order to use an inhaler in school you must complete a health care plan - please ask your child’s key worker to arrange this.

Children do need to wear suitable clothes when they are playing outside. When your child comes to nursery, please make sure they are wearing warm clothes. We have wellies, warm coats and waterproofs for children to wear if it’s wet or cold.
To mark our long-standing place in the community we are developing a number of projects over the spring and summer terms.

We are really looking forward to working with Andrew Hill a potter and Pippa Pixley on projects that will develop children’s language skills through creativity and storytelling. We will then have a special celebration and display the children’s work at the end of the project.

Library

We will over the next couple of weeks be giving children a book bag and setting up our loan system in the foyer. We will provide you with some further information about the days that your child can change their books. Reading with your child is one of the ways that you can really support them and prepare them for school.
Online Safety in the Early Years

You should start talking to your child about keeping safe online at an early age. It’s easier to have conversations about online safety little and often, rather than trying to cover everything at once. Set boundaries from the start. It makes it easier than trying to play catch-up at a later stage. Check that websites are suitable before your child visits them. Look for websites that have parental pages that explain how the site works and how they keep your child safe. Ensure your home page is set to a child-friendly website. Talk to friends about what websites their children use. Play games with your child to get them used to being online. Set ‘Safety Mode’ up on YouTube to help filter out explicit content. If you use Google, turn on Google ‘Safe Search’ to filter sexually explicit content from your search results. The Digiduck ebook is a good way for parents and children to learn about how to stay safe online: go to this site to read it http://kidsmart.org.uk/teachers/ks1/digiduck.aspx


School Closes for Half Term on Thursday 11th February and reopens on Monday 22nd February 2016.

The photographer will be in nursery on Friday 26th February and Monday 29th February 2016.