



# ST MICHAEL'S MAIL

Nursery Newsletter

18th October 2020

**Hello from the nursery team: Hilary, Elaine, Gemma, Georgie, Hollie, Jennie, Lisa, Lizzie, Louise, Natacha and Tiff**

Our final week before half term - that happened quickly! This week we will be theming our activities around the 'Room on the Broom' story. This allows us to consider the interest some children will have in Halloween using familiar story and fantasy play. In children's free play time, they will have the opportunity to explore our homemade slime with bugs, bats and cauldrons (the slime does stick, but washes out in a normal washing machine cycle) pumpkin hammering and our loose parts shapes to decorate felt pumpkins. Adults will support children in rhyming 'silly soup' activities, sequencing character stones, flying broomsticks and making spicy potions.

Halloween is a complicated festival for nursery to respond to. Families view Halloween differently, depending on their own beliefs and also how they have experienced the festival with older siblings. Some trick or treat and some don't. Some view it as an opportunity to dress up and have a little party (not so easy this year!) whereas others find the images very scary for their children. However, as Halloween is very commercial, the mixed messages are increasingly unavoidable. It is difficult to know what parents have told their children or how individual families recognise this festival, so should we be asked tricky questions at nursery, we tend to use the phrase 'some people believe' which allows us to respond to any questions or statements from the children without diminishing the teachings of their parents.

Before half term and for those that take bags home, please check for a named pair of Mountain Warehouse dark navy waterproof trousers that have gone missing this week. Do let us know if you need to take items normally left at nursery home for the week, and take the opportunity to rename anything which may have faded!

Forest school morning sessions will resume for small groups of children after half term; you will be sent an email if your child is in the first 6-week group.

Finally, after 16 years, it is Lisa's last week at nursery. We will miss her terribly but know that she leaves an outdoor play and Forest School legacy, which is very much part of the ethos of St. Michael's. Lisa has promised to stay on as bank staff and also to visit us bringing in any rescued animals which have been such significant experiences for our children.

Stay well and safe over half term, we are expecting to be back at nursery w/c 2nd November.

# PLAY IDEAS

## Reading tip of the week

If your child eats any meals or snacks by themselves, introduce reading books to them then.

## Writing tip of the week

Use tweezers or tongs to pick up and move small objects from place to place, such as putting a raisin or button in each section of an ice cube tray. This develops fine motor skills which help with writing later on.



Sound of the week: **c** and **k**  
Number of the week: **9**

**Conkers**  
How can you play with conkers?

## Woodland wonder

Go on a leaf hunt & see how many different colours & textures you can find.



This link shows you how to pronounce the sounds of the different letters.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW\\_v-1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s)

## Star of the day

Please take a photo or short video of something special that your child would like to share with the children during carpet time and upload to Tapestry. Due to coronavirus we cannot show items that have been brought in from home.



19th - Leo D

20th - Dougie

21st - Ivy

22nd - Sol

23rd - Eleanor C



Facial expression important

## Makaton

At nursery each week we introduce a Makaton sign and symbol. These help children communicate their needs and supports spoken language.

smile