



# ST MICHAEL'S MAIL

Nursery Newsletter

10th October 2021

**Hello from the nursery team:**

**Hilary, Jennie, Charlotte, Elaine, Gemma, Georgie, Hollie, Lizzie, Louise & Sophie**

Dear parents and carers,

This week at nursery we are starting to go autumnal and will have activities with conkers and pumpkins! We will also be practising some yoga poses based on an autumnal story and woodland animals. Following last weeks impromptu powder paint mixing, we will also be using similar skills to make 'potions' and we will make a great home for any clearouts of out of date herbs and spices you may have at the back of your cupboard!

Anyone in the shops this weekend will have noticed that Halloween items are now displayed in abundance. Halloween can be a little controversial, some families celebrate and others do not, it has however become a 'festival' that we cannot ignore at nursery. Rather than specifically celebrate Halloween, we recognise it as an opportunity for children to do what they always do when working out issues of life...play. It enables children to unpack all the usual 'baddies' in fairy tales, witches, wolves, skeletons etc and confront all that may scare them in a play-based way. At nursery, some of our seasonal activities will include dressing up, activities based on 'Room on the Broom' and 'Whats in the Witches Kitchen?' type stories, making potions, play baddies skittles and pretending to fly on broomsticks. We would appreciate a forewarning if you think your child may be anxious with regard to this fantasy type of play.

Last Thursday was an introductory session for an action research project the nursery is involved in. We are very fortunate to have two well-established artists, Kate Comberti and Charlie Betts, who will be visiting the nursery once a week (mainly Thursdays but also a couple of Fridays) between now and Christmas. Together we will be learning about various creative practices and providing children differing creative opportunities. Attached to the newsletter is an image consent form. If your child attends nursery on a Thursday and/or Friday, we will need a signed consent/decline form for this specific project (this is separate to consent already given for nursery only purposes). We will provide paper copies, but please do have a look at the attached for the full details.

The Early Years Alliance have put together a programme of online learning sessions, either a 6-week course or individual one-off sessions. Lots of ideas to support children's early education, the programme is being funded by the Department of Education, so is free for parents. Please do have a look at the link below:  
<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/free-online-learning-whole-family-book-your-session-now>

Hilary

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Diary Dates:

Tuesday 9th November (TBC): Nursery AGM

Saturday 4th December: Nursery Christmas Fair

# THIS WEEK...

## Communication, Language & Literacy:

Cooking with your child is a fun activity which supports their learning and language development in many ways. Follow a simple recipe in a book, or online, read and follow the instructions together.

Getting ready for mark-making: Providing different sized containers in the bath for your child to fill and pour helps to develop fine motor control.



## Woodland Wonder

Hilary's wooden hedgehog 'Hedgey', came to forest school this week. The children collected sticks for his prickles and worked together to build a home for Hedgey to live in.

Leaf piles are potential nesting sites for hedgehogs and other wildlife, such as insects, to shelter in over winter. Maybe your child can show you how to build a leaf pile home for an animal in your garden, the woods or a quiet spot in the local park.

## Makaton

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

**This week's sign is 'Happy':**



Sound of the week:

**p**

Number of the week:

**6**

Click on [this link](#) for a video demonstrating how to pronounce the phonic sounds

**p is for pine cone:**

Pine cones will be falling throughout Autumn, their seeds providing food for wildlife.

They are also fun to collect and make into decorations, bird feeders, bug hotels and to use in craft activities.

## Star of the Day

Please take a photo or short video of something special that your child would like to share with us at nursery and upload it to Tapestry.

**NB. please record videos in LANDSCAPE format (i.e. with phone/tablet held horizontally) so we are able to view them on the large screen.**



**Monday 11th: Joe**

**Tuesday 12th: Aurorka**

**Wednesday 13th: Zoe**

**Thursday 14th: Felicity**

**Friday 15th: Albie**

