

ST MICHAEL'S MAIL

St. Michael's Nursery Newsletter

29th September 2024

**Hello from the nursery team:
Hilary, Jennie, Kelly, Lizzie, Louise and Sophie**

Dear parents and carers,

This week at nursery we will have some autumnal festival themed activities. Our sensory manipulative play will have lentils, bugs and jars, for children to scoop, fill and twist lids on and off, they will be able to create patterns with buttons on our pumpkins and our fairies will have a bit of a Halloween makeover! We will use our silly soup rhyme to make rhyming potions and add witch and wizard hats to our hats song. We hope to have clay for some children to explore too. Clay takes quite a bit of strength to manipulate, so please be delighted with the blob that may arrive in your child's tray! Rather than asking what it is, you may find the phrase 'ooh tell me about your clay' will generate more positivity!

Thank you to the parents who have returned their funding form so promptly. This has enabled me to enter children onto the funding portal before the Monday 30th headcount deadline.

As you know we have changed our charitable status to a CIO and this happened right at the start of the term. This has created a little extra admin for both the nursery and Surrey, which has taken some time to process.

Attached to the newsletter is a digital funding form. Last week we were expecting to only need one set of claim forms, alas on Friday this changed, I now need all parents who are claiming funding this autumn to complete a digital version, even if you have already given me a paper copy. This will allow me to amend elements of the form for both the original setting, and for the 'new' setting. If you have already completed a paper version, you have a weeks grace to complete the digital version and email it. If you have not completed a paper copy, please don't but complete the digital version instead and send it with immediacy! Thank you. I appreciate it is rather tedious, and short notice, I can only assure you that transferring the data at my end is more so! When completing both versions (digital or paper copy), please only complete the autumn sections. Surrey are trying to save on paper, in the past, each term had a new set of forms, now they are amalgamated and parents mistakenly fill in all sections. We have been requested to ensure this does not happen. You will be given the form back in the Spring and Summer terms to confirm hours and sign again at the appropriate time.

If you have already completed and sent me a digital copy, well done for your premonition!

Hilary

This week...

Physical Development:

Using one-handed tools will develop and strengthen muscles and fine motor skills in readiness for pencil grip and control in mark-making. Cutting and snipping with scissors is a great place to start. Using appropriate child sized and left or right handed scissors, give your child different things to cut and snip - newspapers, magazines, old greeting cards. You can help by showing them how to use the scissors, and then guiding them with 'hand-over-hand' help. Gradually reduce the help you provide as their independent skills improve.



Did you know that we focus on phonic letter sounds (rather than names) at Nursery?

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

Number of the week:

4
four

Woodland Wonder:

At Forest School we teach our children how to enjoy the woodland and all its wonders safely...here are some tips for doing the same as a family:

Establish a boundary...this allows children to explore independently within an agreed boundary

Recognise harmful plants...no pick, no lick!

Talk about the weather...and how it may affect ground and surface conditions

Tree climbing rules...only climb up if you can do this independently...and just as importantly, safely climb down again!

Playing with sticks...keep sticks below shoulder level, away from faces or a safe and manageable length.

Enjoy your family woodland adventures!



Star of the Day

Please upload to Tapestry a photo or short video of something special that your child would like to share with us at nursery. Two or three photos/videos is plenty!

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 30th: Fabian

Tuesday 1st October: Ralph

Wednesday 2nd: Stefa

Thursday 3rd: Teddy

Friday 4th: Tamsin

Our star of the day schedule is also displayed in the nursery window for future dates