



ST MICHAEL'S MAIL

St. Michael's Nursery Newsletter

1st December 2024

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

Dear parents and carers,

The first window of the advent calendar has now been opened, Christmas Countdown is now on in earnest! This week at nursery we will start to plant up our mini trees, children will count out decorations and using fine motor skills and prepositional language, hang their decorations! There is learning in all that we do! When your tree comes home, please keep it cool, give it a little drink of water, and after Christmas hopefully find a space in either your own or a relative's garden to plant it out. This is probably the 6th or 7th time we have done this activity and we have parents who have come back to us from years ago who tell us their Christmas tree from nursery is still growing! Decorating your tree at home is a lovely time to reflect and in years to come you will hopefully still be hanging the decorations your child makes in these early years. If your child was with us for last year's bauble ribbon decoration, maybe you'd like to see how your child has grown, you can add a new piece of ribbon to the bauble too!

This week we will continue to sing and start to practice acting out our nativity. The nativity will be on Wednesday 18th December. It will start at 11.30ish and should take no more than half an hour. We don't have a restriction on numbers, so please do invite grandparents etc. Older children (those in their pre-reception year) will be allocated parts and we usually have enough costumes to offer them. Younger children will either be angels or sheep, you may wish to source/make a costume. We like simple ~ so black/ white trousers and a white customised pillow case is good enough! Angels should be wingless to prevent poking the neighbouring angel in the eye! Do speak to Hilary if you need any clarification or if you are unable to source a costume (we may have some spares!). Children who do not normally attend nursery on a Wednesday are also invited to come in. They should arrive at the nursery in costume and toileted at 11.10. Some children, whilst they may love singing on a normal nursery day or at home, really don't like to 'perform', or may become overwhelmed on the day of the show. We totally understand some children will prefer to watch their peers whilst sitting on their parent's lap!! If not already done so, please let us know if your child will not be attending. If your child usually stays for a longer day, but as it's the last day of term, you'd like to collect them after the show, that is absolutely fine, but we would like to know in advance please. These details will be repeated in the next newsletter too.

This Saturday is the Nursery Christmas Fair. A significant fundraiser for the nursery, which allows us to replace and update our resources. It has been lovely to see the white bags return decorated, the delightful array of adopt a bear's, and I'm sure you have all been reminded to bring in tombola donations and bake cakes for the refreshment stall. Please support the fair, it's a lovely day out and build up to the festivities.

Forest School Thursday's. Presently the forecast looks to be a little warmer than the last two weeks. Please check in the morning and ensure your child has the right clothing for a morning in the woods. After the challenge of getting children appropriately dressed this week, one parent offered a great suggestion of having Forest School kit in a separate named bag. Please can we try this and see if that improves the getting ready marathon. Thank you!

Hilary

Diary Dates:

Saturday 7th December: St. Michael's Christmas Fair

Wednesday 18th December: Nursery Nativity and end of term

This week...

Communication, Language and Literacy:

At Forest School we like to offer some of our leftover snack to the birds, including our resident brave little robin. His visits are always a joy!

A perfect cold day activity...put some bird food out (or make your own simple bird feeder) and set up a bird-watching station with binoculars, a garden bird reference book and a simple tick list of common garden birds. Talk about the birds you see, find them in the book, and encourage mark-making to record how many you spot.



Number of the week:



Woodland Wonder:

Help our feathered friends as the weather gets colder by making a simple pine cone feeder together.

Simply smear a pine cone in a sticky or fatty 'glue' such as lard, vegetable fat, peanut butter or honey, roll in bird seed and attach string or wool to hang in a tree.

The more you feed, the more they will come - you may even adopt your own resident robin!



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 2nd: Willa

Tuesday 3rd: Florka

Wednesday 4th: Nora

Thursday 5th: No star today!

Friday 6th: Ossian

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