

Michaelmas Term

2017

Kindergarten

Newsletter

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Kindergarten Newsletter

Dear Parents,

A few weeks in, and already we can see what a lovely group of children we have this term! Each day has been full of fun as we've grown familiar with your child's individual personality and character. We look forward to getting to know every child even better in what should be a very exciting year at Kindergarten.

As you will be aware, with your support during our fundraising events last academic year, we were able to purchase some exciting resources for our outdoor area. A windmill playhouse, personalised mud kitchen and a wishing well. We thank you again for your support.



We have changed the way we plan experiences and activities for your child. A more child led approach has been put in place, where staff will spend time observing play, allowing time to discover what your child's interests are, and then providing experiences to meet the needs and interests of each child. If your child has a particular interest at home, we would love to know about it. Children learn better when they are engaged!

To kick start this term we have been focussing, on “All about me”. If you haven’t already done so, we would appreciate it if your child could bring in any photographs of themselves and family; these can then be used to show at circle time and for the children to stick down in their learning stories which we are working on at the moment.

Please keep an eye on the parents’ notice boards for further project information and check your child’s workbox for their art creations, belongings and letters.



Learning stories and Floor books

In Kindergarten, we will continue to use learning stories where each child will have their own book. Over the academic year a collection of observations, photographs and your child’s work will be recorded in this book demonstrating how your child’s learning is developing, identifying strengths and next steps. We very much appreciate parent’s comments being added.

Our ‘yearly’ floor books will also show your child’s ideas which are then recorded and illustrated to create a valuable record for both parents and children to reference. Please take a look!

Story sacks

Situated in the front hall is our storysack library. Storysacks are available to borrow a week at a time for only £1.00; 10% of the revenue is given to our chosen charity and we use the remainder of the money to maintain and update our stock. Each storysack offers the opportunity for families to share an interactive story using props/puppets and games as well as providing vital

information for parents as how to utilise these wonderful resources. Do ask any member of staff for more information.

Forest Kindergarten

Our trips to Wooplaw Wood will start next week; they continue to be exciting, fun and adventurous for the children. They love the opportunity to explore and think of any games; hide and seek, gathering sticks and collecting different coloured leaves. Photographs of the children exploring in the woods will continue to be displayed in and around Kindergarten as well on the digital photo frame; keep an eye out for the change of photographs.



Achievements and Attainments

We would like your child/ren to let us know of any personal achievements at home or from a club or sport they take part in. For example, bringing in a swimming certificate.

This will be a super opportunity for your child to share their experiences and achievements with other children at circle time as well as display their certificates on our 'Achievements' displaying board.

Hooded Sweatshirts

If you haven't already done so, St. Mary's School logo hooded sweatshirts can be purchased, they cost £12.50 each. Please let staff know if you would like to buy one.

Personal belongings

Please can we remind you to label all of your child/ren's belongings including indoor shoes.

Late Room

Children in Kindergarten, along with Pre-Prep, can use the late room facility situated at Kindergarten between **3 - 3.55pm**. Children with older siblings in main school can join the late room free of charge and children who do not have older

siblings are welcome to join this facility at a charge of £2.50 per hour.



Music/Drama

The children in Upper Kindergarten will visit the Music and Drama Department on a Monday morning at 11.00am for some specialist input in Music and Drama from Miss McRae. Here they participate in rhythm and clapping games and activities to develop facial expressions, character traits and group participation.

The children will also be involved in the Nativity play this Christmas and will begin work on this immediately after the mid-term break.



Art

On a Friday morning, both Upper and Lower Kindergarten will visit the art department in main school. Miss Wood will have a planned activity for the children using a variety of media. Again, I will share your child's experiences by displaying photographs in the front hall. The children always love to look at them too!



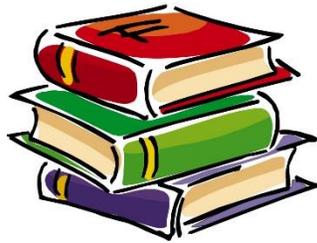
ICT

We will continue weekly visits to the ICT room in main school. The children will learn to control the mouse and develop their listening skills using headphones by

playing various games. We have had fun with Cbeebies-there are many games with favourite cbeebies characters, for the children to try.

Gym time/Music and Movement

Kindergarten is timetabled to go over to the Pre-Prep gym hall twice a week. This is a fantastic time for the children to take part in obstacle courses, throwing and catching balls, dancing and many more musical activities. Please make sure gym shoes are named.



Library

Last term, we continued our weekly visits to the library in main school; these proved to be huge success. The children enjoyed the trips where they either spent some quiet time looking at books on their own, with their friends, or with a staff member. We will start these trips again this week.

Kindergarten Charity

Over the years at St Mary's Kindergarten, we have raised funds during the summer term. As a team, we have now decided to spread these events throughout the year. We would like the children and yourselves to choose a cause to raise funds for. The Kindergarten staff have come up with three worthwhile causes and we would like you and your child's thoughts. Enclosed you will find a lolly stick with your child's name on it, please post your child's lolly stick in to either; Borders Pet Rescue, New children's ward at the BGH or New equipment to our Montessori area in Kindergarten tub situated in the front hall. The tubs with the most lolly sticks in will decide which cause we raise funds for. Any queries, please do speak to a staff member.

At St Mary's Kindergarten, it is important for us to work in partnership with parents/carers in order to have a positive impact on the children's learning and development. We strive to build and maintain a positive relationship with each of our children and their families. We would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to me at Kindergarten or you can contact me directly at Kindergarten on 01896 824064 or alternatively email me on lberni@stmarysmelrose.org.uk

Yours Sincerely

Mrs L Berni
Head of Kindergarten

Please note:

Half term: Monday 16th October to Wednesday 25th October at 8.30am.

