



Nursery Newsletter November 2023

Welcome back! I hope the children are all well rested after their break and are looking forward to seeing their friends.



By now most children are settling well into nursery and its routines. They are getting to know everyone and beginning to make friendships. We are starting to get to know your child more as they communicate more freely with the adults and their peers and we are beginning to recognise many of their interests and skills as they develop these through play.



Topic

This month we will be exploring the following topic: **'Day and Night'**. It is a great topic to discuss what is meant by **'opposites'**, eg. day / night, light / dark, loud / quiet, etc, so it would be great if you could begin to talk to your child about these at home.



We will talk about bedtime routines, daytime v's night-time clothing and we will discuss animals which are about during the day as well as nocturnal animals, which come out at night, eg. owls, badgers, bats, hedgehogs.

We will spend some time looking at the change in season as we begin to move into winter. We will discuss how the weather begins to get colder and the days shorter with darker nights.

They will also be learning about **'hibernation'** and **'migration'** as animals such as bears and swallows begin to take precautions to avoid the cold weather.



This topic also provides some great discussion about the night sky, with a particular focus on **'Space'** as we talk about the moon, stars and even more excitingly, other planets.

The opportunities provided will ensure that learning takes place linked to all six areas of the curriculum; Personal, Social and Emotional, Physical Development and Movement, The World Around Us, The Arts, Language and Literacy, and Mathematics and Numeracy.

During **'Circle Time'** they will discuss **fears** linked to 'the dark' and talk about road safety during day and night (linking in high visibility fluorescent colours). They will play games to help reinforce their colours and will be involved in various **class discussions** about hibernation, migration, change of season, eg. change in weather, clothing, etc.



They will develop their **sensory experiences** through a range of activities, eg. manipulation of space dough, looking through light boxes, listening to a range of daytime and night-time noises and much more.

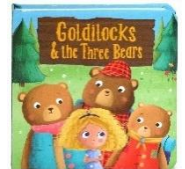
They will be involved in a range of **science investigations**, eg. investigating translucent materials with torches, investigating how rockets blast off into Space, etc.



They will have fun being **creative** as they print with stars, build rockets, decorate bears and much, much more. They will learn nursery rhymes such as 'Twinkle Twinkle', 'Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear', 'Teddy Bears Picnic' and 'Wee Willie Winkie' (see Nursery Rhymes).

They will also have opportunities to take part in **role-play** activities such as in the 'Bedtime House', 'Three Bears House', 'Space Station', 'Bear Cave', providing experiences to **develop language** as they discuss a variety of different routines at bedtime, in space, etc.

They will develop their **mathematical understanding** through a range of activities, eg. number stories, such as 'The Three Bears' and 'There were Ten in the Bed', when blasting off – 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, counting stars, sorting bears for size, comparing planet size, etc.



Colour Theme

The colour theme for November is contrasting **dark colours**, eg. **black, grey, navy, brown** against **light colours**, eg. **white, fluorescent colours**.



Full Day

Most children are now having to adjust to being in school for the full day and they will have to settle into new routines, including school dinners / packed lunches. It is a long and busy day for them and you may find that they are tired when they come home. An early bedtime routine makes such a difference to the learning that takes place, through play, the following day.

Dinners are not made on the premises but are brought in from a central kitchen. The dinner order is usually phoned through at about **9.20am**. If your child is going to be late, e.g. due to a medical appointment, please let us know to ensure dinner is ordered.

Please remember if your child is bringing a packed lunch to school that this follows our **healthy eating principles** with **no fizzy drinks**. Lunch boxes should be placed, by the child, onto the lunch cabinet / bench on their way into nursery.

Most of our children have settled into the lunchtime routine very well. Children taking packed lunch are encouraged to put any leftover / uneaten foods back in their lunch boxes to allow you to see what they are / are not eating. We are happy to keep you informed about what your child eats in school dinners so please do not hesitate to ask if you have any concerns.

Home Time

The children will be released between **1.10 - 1.20pm** and children can be collected from the outdoor play area.

** Parents are asked to collect pupils punctually before 1.20pm as staff are timetabled to cover other classes / activities. Children not collected by this time will automatically be placed into our Wrap Around service which has a standing charge of £2 for the 1.20 - 2pm slot.*

Things to Remember for November

- **£15 Monthly Fund** – for school fund / break (to be paid by **10/11/23**)

This can be paid monthly / termly / in full for the year via Parent Pay.

- Don't forget to **name all items of clothing** worn into school (especially school sweatshirts as these are frequently removed by children and can easily get muddled if unnamed).
- Children should bring a **named outdoor coat** with a hood to nursery school every day. We aim to go outside whatever the weather and although we have waterproofs in school these don't always keep out the cold!



Dates for Diaries

Tues 7th Nov – Hug A Bear Day – Nursery children come to school in pyjamas and bring teddy

Fri 10th Nov – Remembering Day (Memories from the past) – **Poppies will be on sale for Nursery children / parents at home time everyday wk beg 06/11/23**

Mon 13th – Fri 17th Nov – Friendship Week

Mon 13th Nov – Odd Socks Day / World Kindness Day (in support of Friendship Week) – children to wear odd socks to school

Fri 17th Nov – Children in Need -Theme – **'Spots and Stripes'**. The children can wear **spotty / stripy clothing or accessories to school**. We ask for a **donation of £1** if possible with all proceeds going to Children in Need.

Wed 22nd Nov - Jo Jingles visits Nursery.



Dates for the Future

Tues 5th Dec – School Open Night – all welcome

TBC – School Christmas Dinner / Christmas Jumper Day

Thurs 14th Dec / Fri 15th Dec – Nursery / Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 Christmas Nativity / Performance

Tues 19th Dec – Key Stage 2 Carol Service – Dundrod Church - all welcome

Fri 22nd Dec – Last day of term – school finishes at **11am**
(*Please note this will be a **non-uniform day**)



*Please keep your eyes peeled for further information about these events via Seesaw over the next few weeks.

Nursery Rhymes

This month we will enjoy learning songs linked to our topics of 'Day and Night', 'Hibernation' and 'Space' as well as extending our understanding of number. These include:

- Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear
- Teddy Bear's Picnic
- Wee Willie Winkie
- The Bear Went Over the Mountain
- Hug a Bear
- Five Little Bears
- Hey diddle Diddle
- Star Light, Star Bright
- Put on Your Spacesuit
- Five Little Astronauts



These are but a selection of the rhymes and songs we will be saying and singing. Your children will really enjoy sharing these with you each day when they come home from school. Please make some 'time for rhymes' each day.