 

**Bligh’s Lane Nursery School**

**September / October 2023**

**Newsletter**

**Welcome**

The Staff would like to welcome all the parents and children and wish them a very happy year in Bligh’s Lane Nursery School.

This is a very important year for you and your child and we are delighted to share it with you. September is always a very busy time for staff and parents as we try to settle the children into all the routines of the nursery school. During the “settling in” period we bring the children into nursery in small groups and gradually build up to a full session. This ensures a positive start to nursery for your child. We appreciate your support and understanding for any inconvenience caused at this time. If you are worried or concerned about anything please do feel free to talk to us, phone us or send us an email.

Each month you will receive a newsletter like this one, which will inform you about school events, visitors, and the areas of the curriculum that we will focus on with the children. It is a good idea to keep your newsletter in a prominent place as a reminder but it will always be on display on our parent notice board in the entrance hall. It will also be available on our website: [www.blighslanenurseryschool.com](http://www.blighslanenurseryschool.com). You will find it in the ‘Newsletter’ section which is located in the ‘Parent’ tab.

**Meet the Staff…**

Mrs Doherty’s/Mrs Woods’ Classroom: Mrs O’ Doherty’s Classroom:

Mrs Meehan: Nursery Assistant Miss McGilloway: Nursery Assistant

Ms. Henry: Special Needs Assistant Mrs. Carlin: Special Needs Assistant Mrs. Carlin: Special Needs Assistant

Miss Cooke: Language Support Assistant

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Miss Cooke: Breakfast Club Assistant

Mrs Harkin: Dining Attendant

Mrs Mc Cready: Secretary

Mrs Doherty: Caretaker / Cleaner

**Mrs Woods and Mrs Doherty**

Mrs Woods and Mrs Doherty will be working a part-time arrangement this year- sharing both the principal and class teacher duties. Mrs Woods normal working pattern is Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Doherty Wednesday to Friday. We will work closely together on all areas of teaching and leadership but our main focus will be to ensure your child is getting the best experience possible at Bligh’s Lane Nursery. If you have any questions in regard to the arrangement please feel free to speak to us.

**Theme for the Month (September – Mid- October)**

This month’s theme is ‘Getting to Know You’. We spend a lot of time this month getting to know each other – staff, children and parents. Parents can help by talking to their child about his/her teacher’s name and that of his/her assistant and by giving us as much information as possible about their child so that we can best meet the children’s needs.

**Settling In Procedure**

We depend on parents’ support and co-operation during this month. We would remind you that our settling in method is for the benefit of the children and that they are our main priority at all times. The gradual increase of times ensures that the children are happy and secure, and eager to come to school every day!

We are aiming for all the children in each class to come together on **Thursday 21st September: Amalgamation Day**! Each class will then form a whole class. This means that all children can be **dropped off from 8.45am-9.00am and can be picked up from11.45am-12 noon.** (Some children may not be ready to cope with 3 hours and may need to spend a few more weeks gradually increasing their time. Please take advice from your child’s teacher- rushing your child into a longer day could lead to increased anxiety for children who are struggling.) It is essential that children are dropped off and collected on time for sessions.

Whilst Covid-19 is no longer as prominent in the media or when we are out and about we would ask that you keep the basic protocols in mind for school. For example, if you see that the hall is congested during drop off/pick up please wait a couple of minutes until it is a bit quieter.

**Songs and Rhymes** C:\Users\MARY\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\NVNMWEAF\MC900390920[1].wmf

This month the children will be learning a selection of nursery rhymes and songs, some of which they may already know. Learning and reciting nursery rhymes is a vital step in preparation for reading, so you can help by setting some time aside each evening to repeat these with your child:

- **Incy Wincy Spider - Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear**

**- Baa, Baa, Black Sheep - Humpty Dumpty**

**- Two Little Dicky Birds - Name Song**

**- Hickory Dickory Dock - Little Miss Muffet**

**- Hey Diddle Diddle - Twinkle Twinkle little Star**

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**School Dinners**

Dinners will begin on **Thursday 28th September** . Some children may not be ready to stay for dinner by this date (many nurseries don’t start dinner until after Halloween) and if this is the case, your child’s teacher will discuss this with you. It is vitally important that each child is well settled before experiencing the dinner routine. Dinners will be served in each classroom and your child will be expected to sit and eat with cutlery. Don’t worry if they can’t do this already but it would be great if you could start practising this at home.

Parents need to be sure they have contacted the Education Authority (EA) if they think they are entitled to Free Meals – the number is: 02882 411 237. YOU MUST APPLY ONLINE THIS YEAR IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS. The web address is : <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants> The cost for everyone else is £2.50 per day which is **£12.50 a week payable on a Monday**. Unfortunately, we can only accept cash payments for dinners. The Education Authority will now allow us to have money for dinners to be paid by transfer to our school account.

**Snack Money**

Your child’s snack money is **£3.00 per week payable on a Monday**. **This should also be brought in a plastic money bag or envelope by the child with their name on it**. We can accept snack money payments (£3 per week) directly into our school bank account. Our details are as follows:

**Account Name: Bligh’s Lane Nursery School**

**Account Number: 92116182**

**Sort Code: 090155**

We ask that you use your **child’s name as a reference** for payments.

The snack money also covers the cost of school trips and parties etc. We would also use this money to contribute to the cost of flowers if there was bereavement in a child’s or member of staff’s family etc. If you do not agree to money being used in this way please inform a member of staff. Your child will have fresh milk, water and a selection of breakfast foods (a choice of toast, fruit, yoghurt, cereal, pancakes, crackers, eggs etc.). Please let us know if your child has any food allergies.

**Library Bags** 

You will not normally be asked to pay for lots of things in this school, but we do need you to pay for your child’s Library Bag which will be yours to keep at the end of the year. Each child will be able to choose a school library book to take home every week – again, to encourage the development of reading skills. We have ordered special waterproof bags for the children to carry their library book to and from school. The cost of this bag is £5.00 payable by the end of the month please.

We will hold a **short zoom meeting** to go through our ‘Story of the Month’ and book borrowing procedures on the **Wednesday** **20th September at 9.30am**. . A link for the session will be emailed- would be grateful if you, or a representative, could attend.

Our ‘Story of the Month’ for September is “Where’s Spot?” by Eric Hill. We will read this every week to the children in class (as well as reading other stories). This “revisiting” and repetition is crucial for the children to develop memory skills as well as listening and understanding. At the end of the month, the children are asked questions about the story to assess their understanding. You can watch this story on Youtube at home with your child and talk about what happens with them. This will really help to reinforce the story for them.

**Teachkloud**

You will soon receive an invite to download the Teachkloud app. This will be our means of sharing what your child is doing in school. We ask that you share the updates with your child and talk about what they were doing in the photos. This is another wonderful opportunity to extend and develop your child’s language. You can interact with us on the app by commenting on updates or even adding a photo of something you’d like us to see your child doing. The reason we have invested so much time into this is to better our communication with parents but it will only work if we work together on it.

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**Contact Numbers**

It is essential that staff have contact numbers for all parents in case of an emergency. We require three telephone numbers for all children. Mobile phones should never be turned off during the day if your child is at nursery. You must inform us immediately if you change any of your telephone numbers. We also require an up-to date email address to communicate larger pieces of information.

**Colour Groups**

We operate a ‘Colour Group System’ in the school. Each class is divided in half randomly, for ease of organisation. The children will soon receive new name badges in the colour of their group. Mrs. O’Doherty’s class is divided into Green Group and Yellow Group and Mrs. Woods/Doherty’s class is divided into Red Group and Blue Group.

**Wellies**

We ask that you bring in a pair of wellies for your child that can be left in school. They can be hung on your child’s peg in a simple plastic bag. Please write your child’s name on the inside of each welly.

**Child Protection**

A parent information leaflet is attached to this newsletter and will inform you of some of our Child protection Procedures. Further Child Protection Information for Parents can be found on our website: [www.blighslanenurseryschool.com](http://www.blighslanenurseryschool.com)

**GDPR**

A copy of our Data Protection Policy and Parent Privacy notice is also available on the school website : [www.blighslanenurseryschool.com](http://www.blighslanenurseryschool.com)

**Safety in the Car Park**

Please remember to hold your child’s hand when entering and leaving the school grounds – in case a vehicle should enter the car park. The staff will explain this to the children and will also explain that they must never climb on to the wall to walk along it.

**Parents’ cars / taxis are not permitted to drive into the school car park unless by prior arrangement with the Principal.**

**Summer and September Birthdays** C:\Users\Mary\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\X3LLDJRO\MC900343891[1].wmf

JULY BIRTHDAYS: Álainn Rabbett Hannah Deeney

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS: Grace Rodgers Caitlin Bywater Patrick Deery Roma McCoy

Ella Vollmer Caoimhin Simpson

Ella-May Doran Isamay Kennedy

Jamie Roche Maia O’Hagan

Farrágh Kelly Lara Sharif Eldin

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS: Cian Meenan Charlie Bradley

Dawn Rose Barton

Each child will have his/her 4th Birthday celebrated in school with a small cake which is shared with the children in the class. Children whose 4th birthday’s occur during the holidays will have their party before or after the break. Unfortunately, we will not be able to blow out candles this year!