![MC900354219[1]]()![MC900436254[1]]() BLIGH’S LANE NURSERY SCHOOL

 **Halloween Newsletter**

**Monthly Theme**

The theme for the rest of the month of October is ‘Halloween’ – from beginning Monday 9th October. We will have a Halloween Table in each classroom and a “Meg and Mog” Display. We will have a Halloween Table in each classroom, so please help your child to bring something Halloween related in from home. (All items will be returned at the end of the month)

Please note – There will be a lot of art activities using black paint this month – hopefully the dark coloured jumpers will hide any stains!

![MC900053352[1]]()

**Songs and Rhymes**

![MC900436215[1]]()Halloween is Coming Five Currant Buns

The Witches of Halloween The Wheels on the Bus

Pumpkin Song Little Miss Muffet

Spooky Rhyme More Nursery Rhymes

*(Remember, words to the above songs and rhymes will be sent home with your child so you can sing them together.)*

**Thank You**

I would like to extend a huge big thank you to each and every one of you for the patience and understanding you have shown during the settling in process. I know it must be extremely difficult for those of you who are working but we have used this method over a number of years and find it works for the large majority of children- that extra effort at the beginning of the year means we have a more settled school for the remainder of the year. The children have been fantastic and they are now ready for full and busy days.

**Dinner Routine**

The majority of the children are coping well with the dinner routine and are willing to try food that they may not have had before. You can help by ensuring that your child sits at the table at home at meal times and uses a fork to feed him/herself. They are not expected to be able to cut food, but they can learn with our help. If your child is not yet ready to cope with the dinner routine or the longer day then your child’s teacher will advise you of what is best for your child. We need to be patient and gradually introduce it when they are ready. It would be cruel to insist upon a child staying if they are extremely upset and cannot sit for that length of time.

**Language Development**

**![MC900053346[1]]()**![MC900363592[1]]()The Halloween Theme will provide an opportunity for the staff to extend the children’s language – for example, the Water Tray becomes ‘a witch’s cauldron’ and we talk about all the types of creatures that a witch would put into it. This is all done in a fun way so that children will not be frightened. Some of the Key words that the children will be learning are: Witch; wizard; cauldron; spooky; pumpkin; skeleton; ghost; bat; spider; web; cloak; fireworks; black cat; broomstick; spell; crescent moon and abracadabra! Take time to talk about Halloween decorations and the children’s art work.

As you will have noticed from the display in the hall the **Story of the Month is ‘Meg and Mog’.** Each child will have a turn to receive the story book – again read this story to your child every night. You will also get a laminated newsletter with ideas to help to get more out of the story.

**Getting Ready to Learn**

![MC900410645[1]]()The school has been very fortunate for the last number of years to receive money from the Department of Education to fund some parent engagement projects. Throughout the year we will run information sessions and workshops and send home packs and resources which can be used with your child at home. I urge as many of you as possible to attend the sessions and use the resources provided as we are noticing many children’s speech and language development is not at age related expectations. Of course, we will also be doing targeted language work at school to support the children.

**Big Bedtime Read:** The aim of the project is to support parents in sharing books with their children at home which has been proven to improve reading outcomes for children in their futures. We will send a parent information video via our TeachKloud app in the coming weeks. This will give you all the information you need about how our lending library will run and it can be watched in your own time.![MC900237799[1]]()We will let you know as soon as the video is ready and you will be able to ask us about anything you don’t understand during our parent teacher meetings.

**Teachkloud**

We hope you are enjoying the updates that you are receiving on your child’s progress through the Teachkloud app. 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.

**Coats**

If your child cannot put on his/her own coat yet please practise this at home.

The weather is getting colder so make sure your child has a coat everyday – we only use the school coats when it’s really wet.

**![MC900285602[1]]()Halloween Party**

![MC900438243[1]]()There will be a Fancy Dress Party for each class on Friday 27th October. Usual Class times will apply. All the children should come to school in fancy dress and the staff will dress up too. Some children don’t like dressing up – if this happens you should bring the child’s costume with you – when they see everyone else dressed up they might put the costume on.

**Eco-Schools**

It's the start of a new academic year and we are continuing our work on being a ‘Green Flag’ school. We will work with the children to embed a curiosity and respect for our environment and teach them about how they can play their part in caring for our world. This will include activities such as litter picking, planting and recycling.

Children also had a Circle Time session with Mrs Doherty who introduced them to two new characters 'Clean Chase' and 'Rubbish Rubble'. The children loved these new familiar faces and were excited to learn about their new roles in helping the Paw Patrol characters to sort out the rubbish in Nursery School. They also learned the sorting rubbish tune and sang along as they learned about a very important word 'Recycling'! We will be giving out the special Eco badges to children from next week who will take charge of emptying the blue and brown bins each day, with Mrs Meehan and Ms Mc Gilloway!

They also learned about our ‘Daily Mile’ and that we will help our bodies and minds by starting our day everyday with a walk around our school grounds.

**Woodland Wednesdays**

This week we will begin a weekly Forest School session on the grounds of our own school. In previous years children took part in sessions at The Playtrail but, due to financial constraints, we can no longer access these sessions. However, our staff have picked up a wealth of information and skills and have received some Forest School training, and we are confident we can deliver excellent sessions here at Bligh’s Lane. We ask that your child has a pair of wellies in school and we will provide an all in one coat if necessary. We will update you with lots of photos as our sessions take place.

**Parent / Teacher Meetings**

There will be two opportunities for you to meet with your child’s teacher this year – October and February. You will also receive a report in June before your child’s transition to Primary school. The October Meeting will inform you of how your child is settling in and will give you an opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have. We aim to see every parent before Halloween. Mrs O’ Doherty and Mrs Doherty/Woods will arrange the times of these meetings with their parents. We ask that you wait outside until the teacher calls for you and we will do our very best to stick to allocated times.

**Teacher Training**

Our teachers may have to attend various meetings during the year or update their training e.g. Child Protection Training or to attend meetings. There will be a teacher employed to cover for them when this happens. The children will always be told when this will happen.

**School Safety**

We ask again that parents/grandparents/carers DO NOT use the school carpark. Cars entering, turning and exiting pose a danger for all of the children and we do not want any accidents.

We also ask that you do not let siblings play in the playground at drop off or pick up times- the school is not insured for children to play outside of school hours or those who are not of nursery school age.

**![MM900336541[1]]()**

**Halloween Holidays**

The school will be closed to the children on Monday 30th October and will re-open on Monday 6th November.

**Advance warning!!! Christmas Nativity Dates**

We are planning our Christmas nativity plays on the following dates. Hopefully this allows you time to book off work if necessary!

**THURSDAY 7th  DECEMBER: Mrs Woods’/Mrs Doherty’s Class**

 **9.15 am Blue Group 10.00 am Red Group**

**FRIDAY 8th DECEMBER: Mrs O’ Doherty’s Class**

 **9.15 am Yellow Group 10.00 am Green Group**

**Extended Schools Programme**

Unfortunately we are unable to offer any extended schools program this year. Our allocation of Extended Schools money is being spent on language support and the morning breakfast club. We are bitterly disappointed at this but we simply cannot afford the cost of the facilitators or staff. If any money becomes available we will endeavour to start an after school program before the end of the year.

**Payment of monies**

Unfortunately, we can only accept cash payments for dinner money (£2.50 per day/£12.50 per week). We ask that you put this into an envelope and pay on a Monday if possible. However, 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.

**Website and Facebook**

Remember to check in on our school website at [www.blighslanenurseryschool.com](http://www.blighslanenurseryschool.com) where you will find lots of information and updates. We also regularly post onto our Facebook page and, of course, onto Teachkloud.

**Sickness and absence**

We are once again entering cold and flu season and we would as that you are vigilant with any symptoms your child may have. We have already had a small outbreak of a gastric illness which caused a few absences during the last week of September. If your child is unwell please keep them at home to reduce the risk of spreading illness.

With this in mind we are going through boxes of tissues at the minute! We would be very grateful if every family could donate just one box of tissues- it would probably keep us going until after the Christmas holidays.

**October Birthdays**

 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

![MC900410509[1]]()![MC900133951[1]]() James McFadden Ada McCallion

 Clara Morgan

 Ivy Maclean Givara Harrani

![MC900104772[1]]()