![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 3rd October. We will have a Halloween Table in each classroom and a “Meg and Mog” Display. “Meg and Mog” is our story of the month for October. You can watch the video of “Meg, Mog and Owl” on Youtube.

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 you not being able to come into the classroom with your child each morning but I hope that being able to drop them at the classroom door is an acceptable compromise. Your children have been equally brilliant coming in, sanitising their hands and washing their hands regularly and we are delighted with how they have settled.

**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**

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 ![MC900363592[1]]()frightened.**![MC900053346[1]]()** 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 three years to receive money from the Department of Education to fund some parent engagement projects. Throughout the year we will run information sessions, workshops (most likely via Zoom) 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 run parent information sessions, demonstrations and provide you with packs of books you can borrow to read to your child. The launch session forthis is at **12 noon on Tuesday 25th October.** A zoom link will be sent via email prior to the meeting. I really look forward to your participation and making the sessions as enjoyable and beneficial as possible![MC900237799[1]]().

**Shared Education**

We have found out recently that the Shared Education programme, that we have taken part in for the past five years, will continue for one further year. We are currently liaising with our partners, Stepping Stones in St. Johnston and Cockhill Community Pre-School in Buncrana, to get our programme of visits and events arranged. We will let you know that dates and details when this has been finalised.

**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 Wednesday 26th 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 lots of work has already begun on our Eco Garden and Green spots within the Nursery School. We had a visit from Gareth Lamrock, our link officer from Eco-Schools who shared lots of information and contacts to support us in continuing towards our Green Flag application. Our topics this year will include: Outdoor Learning, Biodiversity, Litter/Waster, Climate Action and Healthy Living.

Thank you, as always to Ms Henry, for utilising her many talents to create a wonderful Bug Hotel - re-using old pallets and reclaimed bricks alongside twigs, foliage and leaves to name only a few of the variety of resources she used to create her finished masterpiece! The photos on our school website speak for themselves and we are delighted with the finished product, which will be home to many creatures great and small!!! Thank you also to Ms Roberts who has also created a wonderful weather station for our children to begin to understand the change in seasons and climate at this very young age! A beautiful, bright and eye-catching station will greet you as you enter our school grounds each morning! Don't forget to check out the windmill at the top of the station and talk to your child about the changing weather/the direction the wind is blowing etc!

Children also had a wonderful Circle Time session today 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 will each visit the eco-garden to dump leftover food into our big compost bins!! and then the big recycling bins to recycle cardboard and paper etc. Check out the photos of the children carrying out these very important jobs, also on our school website!!

**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 Thursday 27th October and will re-open on Thursday 3rd November.

**Advance warning!!! Staff Training Day (Change to previously published dates)**

The school will be closed to pupils on Wednesday 23rd November as we will be having a staff training day. It will re-open on the 24th November as normal. To make up this day we will not close for Christmas until Wednesday December 21st.

**Extended Schools Programme**

The Extended Schools Programme will also start on Monday 7th November. The teachers will explain how this will work to all parents at the parent/teacher meetings and ask you to sign a permission slip. This programme has been running successfully in the school for quite a few years now. Parents must remember that it may not suit all children to stay longer in school and again this is not a compulsory programme. The most important thing is that the children are happy from 8.45am - 1.15pm. Parents should accept the advice of the class teacher on this issue. You will find the programme timetable at the end of this Newsletter.

**Snack Money Online Payment**

I have been trying really hard to find a cost effective solution that would allow all monies (dinner and snack) to be paid via an online system. Unfortunately, it is not possible for dinner money as this must be paid directly to the EA Meals account. 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.blighslanenursery.com](http://www.blighslanenursery.com) where you will find lots of information and updates. We also regularly post onto our Facebook page and, of course, onto Teachkloud.

**October Birthdays**

 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

![MC900410509[1]]()![MC900133951[1]]() Saoirse Mc Closkey Aydagh Moran

 Kaylee-May McShane

 Josh Wilson Rossa McClafferty

![MC900104772[1]]()

TIMETABLE FOR THE EXTENDED SCHOOLS 2022-23

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATES | CLASS |  | ACTIVITY | ACTIVITY |
| 7,8 NOV | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 14,15 NOV | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 21,22 NOV | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 28,29 NOV | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| NONE |  |  | CHRISTMAS EVENTS | CHRISTMAS EVENTS |
| 9,10 JAN | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 16,17 JAN | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 23,24 JAN | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 30, 31 JAN | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 6,7 FEB | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 20 FEB, 21 FEB | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 27,28 FEB | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 6,7 MAR | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 13,14 MAR | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS |
| 27,28 MAR | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 3,4 APR | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS  |
| 17,18 APR | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS |
|   |  |  | **EASTER** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 24,25 APR | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS |
| 8, 9 MAY | ROOM 1 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS |
| 15,16 MAY | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS |
| 22, 22 MAY | ROOM 2 |  | MON: JO JINGLES+ DANCE | TUES: FOOTBALL + GYMNASTICS |

Room 1- Mrs Woods/Mrs Doherty

Room 2- Mrs O’Doherty