

# Nursery Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new school term and for all our new starters welcome to St Leonard's Nursery. We are so excited about our new Nursery building, the children have had a wonderful week exploring their new environment inside and out and we have loved watching them choose the resources they want to have out. The new building gives us the opportunity to take the children into our separate group room for adult focus sessions which has worked really well this week as the children have no distractions and can really concentrate. We have done some phonics, maths, speaking and listening and mark making.

Another new aspect this term is our weekly 'Focus children', this involves choosing a child from each key group in each session to 'focus' on in more depth. All children will still be worked with and observed by the adults, however, the focus child ensures that for one week throughout the term chosen children will be watched more closely and their observations may have more detail. We may work on specific areas of development with these children. You will find the more focused observations that are done during these weeks on Tapestry and the title will begin 'Focus Week'. Please remember to check tapestry regularly for updates on your child and to add your own observations of your child's interests and proud moments out of school. We look forward to seeing these and sharing them in our key groups.

In the nursery we do not have specific topics as we work from the children's interests. We have the freedom to work 'In the moment' so we may get out new resources, set up activities and change our group times there and then rather than planning things a week in advance when the moment has passed and the children may have already moved on. If you look at the Parents Notice Area which is just inside the door above the coat pegs you will see the weeks planning and who the focus children are. If you have any questions please come and speak to a member of staff.

## Home learning:

This week in phonics we were singing a rhyme that was about doing an action very slowly and then faster e.g. "clap your hands very, very slowly,,,,,clap your hands faster". The children enjoyed this and were very good at it. We then did an activity where the children had to copy a pattern made by the adult e.g. 3 claps in a row, OR, clap twice then pat your knees. This was more tricky for the children so we would like you to practice this at home. You might make a rhythm of claps, pats or stamps on the floor and the children have to copy you.

In maths this week the focus has been on identifying one object or more than one and then counting a group of objects. Try counting sets of anything you can find at home. Here is a nice counting game the children can play online...

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/gingerbread-man-game> - select 'counting 1-5' then if they are confident with this try 1-10.

## Reminders...

- In nursery we collect £1 per month contribution money. This enables us to do regular cooking activities, keep our pet guinea pigs and buy all the little extras that the children are interested in throughout the year. Please pay your monthly £1 to your child's key person.
- Our new coat pegs are much smaller than the previous coat trolleys we were using. If possible make sure your child's coat has a hook on it to hang it up rather than by the collar or the hood as they tend to fall off. Please provide spare clothes and return nursery clothes if your child had borrowed them.
- As we no longer have an indoor shoe policy in Nursery please make sure your child's shoes are clean on the way into the building and use the mats provided to wipe them. All children need a pair of wellies for our outdoor area so please don't come in wellies as they can get very muddy outside and then they have nothing clean to wear inside. Finally, when picking up we will open the green gates to provide a waiting space so that the pavement outside can be kept clear for other parents leaving school. Thank you!

Have a great weekend!  
The Nursery Team