



Next Steps @ St Johns



Working together to build a firm foundation for learning and caring

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This week at Nursery . . .

7th June 2024

This week at Nursery we have started to explore the term's new theme; Healthy Me!

The children have been making healthy eating dinner plates by using various pictures to design a tasty meal. This has sparked lots of conversations about favourite foods, as well as nutrition and keeping healthy.



The children have also enjoyed carrying out a simple science experiment which explains how germs are affected by soap, and why hand washing is so important. They were fascinated to watch as soap repelled pepper sprinklings (which represented germs) and laughed a lot as we told the germs to "go away!"



We have also enjoyed time outside in the sunshine, playing and exploring with our friends!

This term, we are also thinking about transition, especially for our pre-school children who will be moving on to school in September. We have introduced St John's School uniform to the role play area; the children have really enjoyed dressing up and looking like their older siblings and friends. We have also started to use the Reception classrooms for some of our group time activities. We will continue to do this throughout the term and of course there will be lots of opportunities for children to meet members of the Reception staff team.



STAR OF THE WEEK

Cienna



For sharing lots of exciting holiday news with her friends.



During our Parents' Evening meetings, several of you asked what you can do in order to have your child 'ready' for school. At this age and stage, the most important thing you can teach your child is independence. This includes toileting, entering nursery on their own, eating/feeding, getting dressed, asking for help etc. These are often skills that take time to teach and need plenty of practice! They are however, of huge benefit if embedded before your child starts school. Please do speak to your child's key worker if you have any questions, we are always here to support you. We would love to see more of our pre-school children entering nursery by themselves this term, we know they can do it and are up to the challenge!

There is a 'School Readiness' poster attached to today's newsletter which you may find helpful- please bear in mind that children develop at different rates. This is not a checklist or anything to feel worried about.

You may have noticed the building works currently being carried out on our building. As you can see, we are having cladding added to the outside to give the building the 'finishing touch'. We are hoping that work will be completed by next week and think you will agree it looks fab!



Calling all Superheroes!!!

We are holding a fundraiser for Young Lives Vs Cancer in honour of our own little superhero Marley who completed his treatment for cancer earlier this year.

The event is taking place this Saturday, 8th June, 10am-1pm.

There will be fun and games, crafts, biscuit decorating, tombolas, refreshments and much more! You are welcome to dress as your favourite superhero. Entry tickets are £1 per person and are available to buy from Next Steps. Tickets will also be available on the day, but to be able to raise as much money as possible, we would like to have a more accurate guide on how many people will be attending. Thank you for your support in this. Raffle tickets are also available from the nursery, for £1 per ticket, (and for sale on the day). We have already received some great prizes from local businesses, and we are always grateful for more! Any volunteers that would be able to spare some time to help set up or cover a stall, please let us know.



Reminder: Pre-school Leavers Photographs.

Nigel Coles is coming in on 11th June, (next Tuesday) from 8:30am. If your child is not normally at nursery on a Tuesday, you are welcome to come along with them for the group and individual photos. This is for our **preschool** children only and no sibling photos can be offered on the day.

Dates for the Diary

8th June: Fundraising Event, 10am - 1pm.
 11th June: Pre-school Leavers Photographs
 12th June: St. John's New Parents Induction evening
Summer Closure: 5th August - 16th August inclusive.
 Nursery will re-open on Monday 19th August.
 26th August: Bank Holiday - Nursery Closed

Getting Ready for School

It is nearly time to start school! Here are some things you can practise at home to help you get ready for school.



Self-Care and Independence

I can wash and dry my hands.
I can wipe my nose.
I can put on/fasten my coat and shoes.
I can use the toilet.
I am learning to dress/undress – this will help me change for PE.
I am happy to be away from my parents or carers. I know they will be back soon.

Playing with Others



I join in games and activities with other people.
I can share and take turns.

Speaking and Listening

I can talk about my ideas, needs and feelings.
I can ask a grown-up for help.
I can follow simple instructions.

Eating and Drinking

I can use a spoon, knife and fork.
I can open my lunch box as well as wrappers and packaging.
I can drink from a water bottle, carton or open cup.



1 2 3 4 5 Numbers

I can count a small number of items.
I like singing number rhymes or songs.
I am learning to say numbers to ten.
I can recognise some numerals.

Reading and Writing

I can recognise/read my name.
I can hold a pencil to draw.
I am learning to write my name.
I enjoy listening to stories and rhymes.

