

# October News

This month in Nursery –

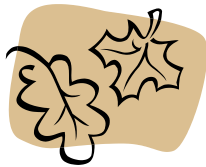
Our colours are **orange and brown** – children may bring in orange/brown items of interest e.g. an orange, carrot, leaf, wool etc

Our shape focus is a square. Please encourage recognition of shapes and colours at home. You can turn this into a game by getting your child to look around the home for objects of interest that may be orange/brown or a square shape.

Throughout the month of September our aim was to simply settle the children into a routine, help them to learn staff names and the names of their peers and to make them feel confident enough to tell us if they need anything. Some children take longer than others to settle and to feel confident with staff and peers so do not be alarmed if your child appears not to be mixing or saying the names of children in the class. This will take time for some.

Our topic this month will be **autumn**.

We would like the children to identify signs of autumn so please encourage discussion about this topic at home. The children may bring in objects of interest for discussion at story time. [No nuts, including chestnuts and beech nuts]. We would like lots of leaves for display, art and sorting purposes.



Our key words are: turning, changing, acorns, conkers, leaves, crunchy, dropping, falling, golden, harvest, rustling, scarecrow, spinning, swirling, tumble, whirling, windy, yellow, brown, red, and orange.



In your child's drawer at the end of this week will be a booklet with activities for home to reinforce the learning taking place in school. There are some activities and rhymes to do at home with your child if you wish.

This month in Nursery we will be encouraging independence e.g. putting on aprons, getting their own snack, mopping up spills and tidying areas of play.

**Language and literacy** – The children will have access to a range of books within the classroom which will focus and reinforce respect for books, our topic and our family. The children are encouraged to sit well for story time and to give the teacher “five”. Please ask your child what “Give me 5 means.” Hopefully they will tell you – eyes looking, ears listening, lips closed, hands still and brains ready. The children are being encouraged to put their hand up at story time to ask or answer questions and they are encouraged throughout the day to not interrupt 2 people talking but to wait until they have finished. Please work on this at home too.

We have a writing table and we will be encouraging pencil control. There will be writing materials at most areas of play as children like to make pretend lists etc. It is important now for your child to begin holding their pencil appropriately.

Lending library – it is a good idea to join a library with your child and to read stories at bedtime to encourage vocabulary, listening skills and concentration. Our lending library is available in the hallway.

**Early maths** – we will be singing lots of number rhymes in Nursery which is a good introduction to number. We will be working on developing and extending counting and visual discrimination skills, sorting for colour and size. Our role play areas will be goldilocks and the three bears house /fruit and veg shop and there will be lots of opportunities for counting and weighing vegetables and using language such as heavy, light, long, short, big and small. Children will be handling money and counting.

All other plays in the classroom are set up to extend the children’s language, maths skills, physical development, imagination, creative side and to make them aware of the world around us. The learning intentions are displayed in the classroom and planning for the month is in the hall.

Useful websites to let your child play on at home are – starfall, literactive, dltk-kids, cbeebies, abcya.

### **Reminders**

- Any queries regarding uniform tel. George on 02890588826. Please ensure all uniforms are paid for.
- Please check your child’s drawer at the end of the day.
- Please encourage your child upon arriving at school to find their name on our attendance board and back again at home time.
- As the weather is changing and we like to get outdoors everyday then please send your child in wearing suitable footwear and coats.
- When your child is collected please ensure they have the correct jumper and that jumpers are named well.
- Please keep to nursery times and ensure childminders / day nurseries do as well – 08.50am-11.20am and 12.30-3.00pm.
- Please send me your email address if you wish to receive reminders and have not already received one from me as some have bounced back and may have been entered wrongly etc. [ncruickshank282@stranmillis.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:ncruickshank282@stranmillis.belfast.ni.sch.uk) if you have not already received an email from me.
- If you wish to keep a change of clothes in your child’s drawer in the event of an accident, then please feel free to do so [pants/socks only]
- School policies are available to look at upon request and some are displayed on the notice board including, child protection, anti bullying, healthy eating and our changing policy.
- Child protection – please see Mrs Cruickshank if you have any concerns or **Mrs Mckay, Miss Buller/ Mr Wallace** in the primary school.
- If you have any old ribbons, junk materials for craft then we would really appreciate these. No plastic bottles.

### **Weekend diaries**

These are available to lift in the hall way or you can just write down on a page from home if your child has been anywhere interesting or done anything exciting at the weekend. Children can be too shy at

times to tell us about their weekend or they may have forgotten details and the diary gives them confidence to stand in front of the class at story time and share their weekend with the others. The children may draw on the diary and if parents just write down some details then we can ask the child all about their weekend.

### *Nursery Bears*

*If your child receives a bear for tidying up/listening, then please return it when necessary i.e. on Wednesdays/Fridays so another child can have a turn.*

### *Dates for your diary-*

- *3<sup>rd</sup> October – PTA welcome event in the school assembly hall with jump jiggle and jive for parents and children to attend if possible from 530-630pm.*
- *11<sup>th</sup> October- Book fair – in the am it is from 11-1120am and in the pm it is from 2.20-2.45 pm. This is an opportunity to collect your child school a bit earlier and purchase a book for your child if you wish them to get a new story book. The money raised goes towards new books for the school.*
- *12<sup>th</sup> October – a class photo will be taken for the school calendar.*
- *26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October – Parental interviews- Form to fill in will follow.*
- *27<sup>th</sup> October -no school*
- *Week beg. 30th October – No school*



Staff –

Teacher – Mrs Cruickshank

Assistant- Mrs Crozier

**Mrs Moore** - Mon 2-3pm only for teacher relief

We have two Victoria College girls every Thursday morning 10-11am and they will be either Megan, Rachael, Ellen or Bibi.

We will have a Stranmillis student with us October/November. Her name is Megan.

Thank you