



Renfrew Street Nursery School

Twitter: @RenfrewStreet

Newsletter-30th October

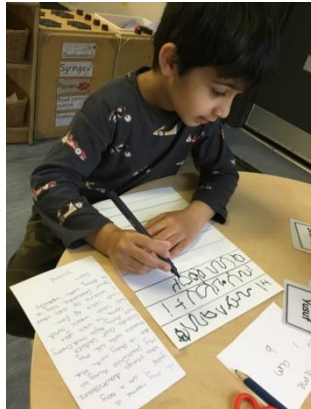


There is so much that the children have been learning through their play – here are just a few examples!

The downstairs group have been developing their writing skills by daily signing in their name, and they have started to write some letters to their friends upstairs, using the post-box. This involves all stages of letter writing – THINKING about what they want to say with MODELLING by an adult, SCRIBING of the children’s words by an adult, and some MARK-MAKING and WRITING by children. Literacy is not just actual writing. Children have also been exploring potions and spells –by talking, creating and writing.



For Halloween, we have been exploring different senses (the jelly tray!) and how to describe what this feels like. The children have carved pumpkins developing their hand-eye coordination, strength and dexterity which helps their early writing skills in a different way.



Our upstairs group have been combining science with Halloween in their pumpkin carving, using the pumpkins to carry out “volcano” experiments. They can then talk about changes that happen with substances and predict what will happen.

Children have also been counting using dot cards, dice and objects each day – daily practice helps children understand numbers. Children have also been keeping healthy with different exercises each day.



The children have had lots of experiences with autumn natural objects and describing changes of colour around them, creating their own autumn pictures whilst learning about natural changes. To develop their fine-motor skills (dexterity) they have been doing Halloween crafts with lots of cutting, as well as using tweezers in a fun and challenging way.



You may have noticed us sharing our TALK strategies on Twitter to encourage children's communication.. We will continue to post up example videos and information about this. Please try them out, they are useful ways to take advice from Speech and Language Therapy colleagues. Please check our Twitter page regularly for learning and information updates (@RenfrewStreet)

We now have a nursery virtual parents wall, due to the fact that parents have very limited access to the nursery building. Please see our website:

<http://www.renfrewstreet-nursery.glasgow.sch.uk/>

You can find the parents wall under "Parent Information" and a virtual video tour of nursery under "Our Nursery"

A quick reminder about our response to COVID-19:

Please keep children off for 14 days if they have symptoms of a cough, a high temperature or a change in or loss of smell or taste. You must also keep them off if anyone in the household has these symptoms. Please phone and let us know if anyone has symptoms. Anyone with these symptoms should be tested.

As you will be aware, at the end of September we did have 2 positive cases amongst people attending nursery. Following isolation guidelines, there have been no further cases and both people are fully recovered and healthy now.

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Having good ventilation in nursery is important to ensure safety, which means windows in each room being open. We will use the nursery heating of course but this can mean slightly colder temperatures in the rooms. Please consider this when dressing children for nursery and provide a jumper that children can take on or off as required (and label with their name!)

We have welcomed 2 new staff in recent weeks. Ann Frances is our new additional cleaner working afternoons until 5pm. This helps us to ensure the cleanest possible environment due to the COVID situation. And Rachael Fairhurst has joined our staff team 5 days per week – Rachael is a Modern Apprentice studying towards her SVQ3 qualification. We also welcome a visitor this term, Kirsteen Thompson, from the Leaders of Early Learning team. Kirsteen has a wealth of experience and will be supporting staff in developing early writing skills for the children.

A big thank you to the parents who recently came in to do planting and outdoor garden jobs – this was very enjoyable for staff and children.

It is coming up to Diwali celebrations soon (Nov 13th). If any parents would like to support an activity in nursery, please let us know and we can make this happen with some small guidelines due to COVID-19.

Next month we will be giving out Bookbugs bags to our "Antepreschool" children (which means, those children who are not going to school in August 2021). We won't be doing nursery reading sessions this year sadly however we will do some video story sessions of the books and we have booked an Amazonia animal handling experience for the children as the book theme is animals. This is only possible through the parent Toy Fund weekly contributions so thank you to all parents for this valuable support.

IMPORTANT – Next week is school enrolment week (for children with dates of birth between 1 March 2016 - 28 February 2017). You can find the link to enrol online in the previous information sent via text message and Twitter.

- *First of all you will be asked to set up a MyGovScot account.*
- *Then you should enrol for your catchment school.*
- *Only once you have done that should you apply to register your child at another school (a “Placing Request”) if you wish.*

Please note that your Placing Request then becomes your first choice – you are not guaranteed to get it and if you do get it, your catchment school application is withdrawn. So be sure about what school you want your child to go to!

Key dates

13 Nov Diwali

18 Nov Amazonia visit

30 Nov St Andrew’s Day

16 Dec Santa to visit upstairs

17 Dec Santa to visit downstairs

18 Dec Christmas parties

22 Dec Last day of term

23/24 Dec 52 weeks children only

5 Jan 52 weeks children return

6 Jan all children return

Please note, we kindly ask parents to collect early after the Christmas parties (by 4.30pm). Children are often tired after a busy party day and we plan to have a staff meeting afterwards. If this presents any difficulty please ask to discuss with Steve.

Steve Rivers – Head of Nursery