

# Nursery News

## October 2017

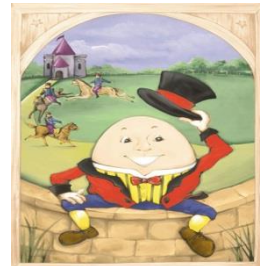
Welcome to the latest Nursery News!

The nursery team would like to extend a warm welcome to the new children and families who joined us in August; and a welcome back to our returning children from last year.

The nursery is very busy this year and morning places are now full, with the afternoon session quickly filling up.

### **Strong Starts**

Jacqui has now moved to work with the Strong Starts and has been busy settling in her children. They have been learning and singing lots of nursery rhymes.



### **Nursery Staffing**

There have been a few changes to the staff this term. Ann is now working Monday – Wednesday and a new member of staff will be appointed shortly to cover Thursday and Friday. We would like to welcome Jodie Dossett to the team and she will be covering Clare and Carolyn's maternity leave. Claire welcomed a baby boy into her family in July and Carolyn welcomed a baby girl into her family in September.

## What we have been learning?

The children have been matching and sorting items by pattern and using loose parts to copy patterns. We have been exploring the school grounds searching for different patterns in the environment. The children listened to two stories about pattern – ‘My Mum and Dad Make Me Laugh’ and ‘A Pair of Socks’.



For our harvest theme we have been learning the vocabulary and reading the story *The Scarecrows Wedding*. We are busy planning a ‘nursery wedding’ with the afternoon children and the children are looking forward to dressing up in wedding clothes. We have been out to gather lots of apples and pears from the orchards in the school grounds and have been busy cooking.

We have been out and about in the community – we went back to our plot in the community garden and harvested some wonky looking carrots and strawberries, but the tomatoes were still green. Some of the children have been to Asda to buy ingredients for baking, and then came back to nursery and made some delicious banana muffins. There have been numerous walks to the North Inch for number and pattern walks; to gather twigs, conkers, acorns and leaves for loose parts play activities and autumn themed work.

## Loose Parts Play

The nursery staff have recently had some training on loose parts play and we are currently developing play opportunities outside and indoors. We are encouraging the children to develop their imagination and use their creativity by providing them with natural resources and materials. We are also creating opportunities for the children to take ownership of their environment and play by being able to construct, invent, change and re-invent their ideas. This has had an impact on the children's play and we have observed the children working together co-operatively and taking part in lots of meaningful discussions as they problem solve and share ideas –such as how to remove the wooden cable drum which became stuck in the maze.



The recent wet weather has left us with lots of muddy puddles to be explored. The children have made fishing rods with sticks hunting for fish and sharks, then cooked





them on a barbeque made from logs. There has been lots of discussion from the children about what happens to the water when they jump in the puddle! And we have made lots of use of the all in one suits provided by the Parent Council.



Please keep an eye on our notice board for further requests for donations of loose parts materials and stay and play sessions.

We are looking for donations of wellington boots in sizes 9,10,11, 12. If you have any that your children have grown out of and are still in good condition we would be very grateful to receive them.



## Stay and play sessions

We would like to say a big thank you to all the grandparents who came along to our special Grandparents Day session, the children were delighted to have you visit their nursery. It is also so encouraging to have your continued support in joining us at these learning sessions, we greatly value your continued suggestions and support.



## Nursery Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts



We would like to encourage nursery children to wear our branded t-shirt and sweatshirt. This helps when we are making visits beyond the nursery as children are easily identified in their purple clothing!

Orders can be delivered direct to home or to the school office for collection. Please order online at:

<http://www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk/St-Johns-Academy/St-Johns-Academy-Nursery>

## **Start of New Term**

The new term begins on **Monday 23 October 2017**. There are two inservice days on **16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November** therefore children should not attend nursery on those days.



## **And finally....please join us on Twitter**

We post daily on twitter. Keep an eye out for photos, videos and updates on our exciting learning opportunities! We'd love to have more followers so please sign up.

Follow us [@stjohnsnursery](https://twitter.com/stjohnsnursery)

**Thanks for all your continued support – The Nursery Team**