



Dates for your diary

Stay and Play sessions: 16th October 9:30-10:30am, and 19th October 2-3pm

Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan: **Friday 20th October 09:30 - 11:00am** (All baked / faked donations are welcomed and very much appreciated)

Autumn Half-term: **Term-time only** children break-up **Friday 27th October**, return **Monday 6th November**

Stay and Play Christmas events – **Friday 8th December** (details to follow)

Christmas holidays: **Term-time only** children break-up **Tuesday 19th December** and return **Wednesday 3rd January**

Nursery Christmas closure: **Break-up Friday 22nd December** and reopen **Wednesday 3rd January**

Reminders

If you would like your child to have breakfast at Nursery, please drop them off by 8:15am as the next stage of our daily rhythms begins at 8:30am.

Please bring a labelled water bottle each session. Due to recommendations for dental hygiene, we kindly ask you do not put juice in your child's bottle.

Please ensure all of your children's belongings are labelled, including water bottles, dummies and clothing. Many children have the same items in the same sizes and labels prevent mix-ups occurring, particularly as children become more independent and remove their own clothing.

As part of our efforts to be more sustainable, we kindly ask that parents provide a wet bag for any of their children's dirty clothing to go into to reduce the use of plastic nappy sacks.

We can only accept sealed tins / bottles of formula in order to prevent cross contamination.

Firstly, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and families, as well as Miss Dee who has joined the nursery family and is going to be spending lots of time in *The Streams*. We have also welcomed new practitioners Miss Donald, Miss Donohue and Miss Hartley to the Nursery family. We have recently said goodbye to some of our children who have moved on to their new adventures in *The Rivers* and Miss Harrison who is moving on to complete her teaching qualifications.

Here at Shotley Bridge Nursery School we strive to provide the best possible care and education for all children. As practitioners act as significant figures in children's lives, it is important to us to ensure we have a relationship with not just the child, but their families too. In order to strengthen the link between home and Nursery, we ask parents to share photographs of their child's family, experiences and interests using the ParentZone app to allow children the opportunity to share these with practitioners and, as they grow, their friends too. This proves to be an effective tool for building language and recall skills, as well as allowing children to feel a little more secure in the Nursery environment, a fundamental requirement in learning. We like to create a 'family book' for each child within *The Streams* and kindly ask that, if you have not already, you send over some captioned family photographs to allow us to create this for your child too. If you are unsure how to upload photographs to the app, please do not hesitate to ask.

Whilst our Summer weather does seem to have been short-lived, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that children do go outdoors in all weathers. We aim to reflect indoor learning outdoors as well as making the most of the natural elements that provide endless learning opportunities and provoke children's inner curiosities, including bugs and mud! Increased time outdoors is proven to improve motor development and impulse control whilst reducing the impact of stress and providing natural intake of Vitamin D. When outdoors, children are not limited by space and can engage in increased physical activity which, in turn, uses excess energy, making it easier for children to focus on learning opportunities and make those essential brain connections necessary for development. We provide Nursery waterproofs and we do have some wellington boots (though limited on sizes) but politely ask that you bring appropriate footwear and clothing for your child to go outdoors as the cold weather sets in in the coming weeks / months. If your child is not yet wearing shoes, we ask that you please provide some thick (preferably waterproof) socks or booties.

As the first two years of a child's life are fundamental in social and emotional development, our practice is firmly centred around providing children with the most effective support for them as individuals to create the best foundation of skills possible. We give a lot of focus towards helping children develop the language they need to express themselves effectively, giving meaning to the different emotions they feel when encountering new experiences. During the first two years everything is new and exciting, and children are naturally driven to interact with the world around them and with this, comes boundaries. Our behaviour management approach focuses on helping children understand the reasons why they are not allowed to do certain things which contributes to independent behaviour management in the future. Toddlers often experience high levels of frustration as a result of being unable to express themselves effectively when encountering boundaries and limits to exploration of their curiosities. By offering the words they may need to use in these situations as well as a supportive presence, children's emotions are validated, and co-regulation becomes possible.

Heuristic play is the term used to describe play with open-ended materials and resources often referred to as 'loose parts'. As you may be aware, our provision is heavily based upon use of loose parts in order to provide the vast array of benefits to our children, including development of critical thinking skills, imagination, and creativity. For more information on this aspect of our provision, please refer to our booklet 'The importance of loose parts in our provision'. We always welcome donations of loose parts to add to our environment and ask you to consider this before disposing of what may seem like 'rubbish' or use this concept as inspiration for treasures you could look for whilst out in nature.

Examples include, but are not limited to; bottle corks, cardboard tubes (not toilet roll), bottle / container lids, yoghurt pots, cellophane sweet wrappers, curtain rings, pinecones, shells, sticks, leaves, wallpaper offcuts, egg boxes, hair rollers, kitchen utensils, beads, stones, bracelets and jewellery boxes.

We recently embarked upon some training with Debby Shaw from Durham County Council Early Years Team and are implementing a new approach to our mathematics provision. Please find attached some more information about this approach and how you can support your child's mathematics development at home.

Things to note

With colder weather approaching some children are prone to cracked lips and such like. Moisturising creams, lip balms and the like do not need to be prescribed however they must be unopened and clearly labelled with your child's name to prevent any cross contamination.

Everyone has received / will receive an invite to one of our Stay and Play sessions in October. We kindly ask that you RSVP at the earliest opportunity to allow us to plan this effectively for the numbers of children and adults attending.

During the colder months your child may be wearing wellington boots or bulky footwear. You are welcome to provide some indoor shoes or slippers for their comfort during indoor play. Also, socks are more likely to get wet during play. This is an item we do not have a lot of, so we advise you provide some spare pairs in your child's bag.

As always, we would like to thank you for your continued support, *The Streams* Team.