

Cooley Nursery Unit Newsletter



September/October 2022

Topic: Settling In/All About Me

Parent/s

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back everyone who was with us last year and of course to welcome all of our new arrivals. We hope that you all enjoyed your summer holidays! We are really enjoying ourselves and have found that the children have been a joy to work with. I have put together this little newsletter to help keep parents updated on various aspects of nursery life.

Mrs Byrne - Nursery Teacher

July/August Birthdays

Jax Smyth-Young
Connlá Donaghy
Cáleb Harkin
Cadán Harkin

September/October Birthdays

Caitlin Heekin
Ruby Gibson
Felix Hall
Cathair Boyle
'Happy Birthday'



Rhymes

Below are some of the rhymes/songs which we will be learning. I'm sure your child would love to recite these popular rhymes with you at home.

- '2 Little Dickie Birds'.
- 'Incey Wincey Spider'.
- 'Humpty Dumpty'.
- 'Hickory Dickory'.
- 'Hey Diddle Diddle'.
- 'I'm a little teapot'.

Meetings

Parent/ teacher meetings will be held between Tuesday 25th October and Thursday 27th October. Allocated times to follow. Nursery will close at 11.00am on Tuesday 25th October and on Thursday 27th October, to help facilitate meetings.

Ideas for Parents

As stated our topic this month is 'All about me'. We are also exploring our senses and talking about seasonal changes. If you would like to follow up our topic at home here are some activities you might like to try.

- Share stories related to family life, the body or senses with your child.
- Look at family photographs and talk about all of your different family members.
- Talk about sounds you might hear on nature walks.
- Encourage your child to eat healthy snacks at home and talk about hygiene issues. e.g. we wash our hands before we eat, we brush our teeth before we go to bed.
- Talk about seasonal changes in autumn.
- Use autumn leaves to make pictures/ rubbings/ prints.
- Bake gingerbread men with your child.
- Encourage your child to draw their favourite characters from story books.
- Go on an autumn walk with your child and talk about changes in the environment, e.g. weather, animals such as spiders on their webs, leaves changing colour, etc.
- Use and reinforce simple associated vocabulary, e.g. body parts - arm, leg, knee, elbow... Seasonal - leaves, windy, rainy... Encourage more difficult words to extend language, e.g. nocturnal, hibernate...

Coats

Please remember to wrap your child up warm. We will be outside every day and children will need a coat, hat, etc.

Spare Clothes Reminder

'Little accidents' often happen at nursery and staff will need to change your child when they do. If your child is sent home in their spare clothing, please remember to provide us with another change of clothes for your child.

All returned bags should be named and should contain items to replace what was sent home. For example, if your child's T-shirt and trousers were changed and sent home wet, please supply us with a pair of trousers and a T-shirt to keep as spares.

(Please name spare clothes in bag. Spare clothes do not need to be Cooley uniform items).

Child Protection

Our designated teacher for child protection is Miss Cathcart and our deputy designated teachers are Mrs Carrothers and Mrs Byrne. Any queries or problems should be directed to them.

Snack

Cost - £8 per month

Children will also be provided with milk each day, free of charge.

Allergies

We have a number of children with significant allergies at nursery. Some of these allergies are life threatening and must be taken seriously. Cooley Nursery Unit is a **NUT FREE ZONE** and we ask all parents to refrain from sending **ANY** food or drinks to nursery with their child.

School/Nursery Notes

Emails will be sent out relating to many aspects of nursery life.

Please check your emails regularly for any correspondence. We may also send information via Seesaw. Please remember to check.

Also, please remember to send us an email detailing the reason for your child's absence from nursery.

aanderson526@c2kni.net

Comings and Goings

I would just like to remind parents that all persons leaving children to nursery and picking them up, must be over 18 years old.

I can not stress enough, the importance of **collecting your child promptly**. Children can become upset, when they are the only child left at nursery. Staff also have evaluations and observations to write up and lots of tidying up to do. Staff will contact parents by telephone if children have not been collected, as mix ups often occur.

We ask that all parents arrive on school premises **a few minutes before their child's pick up time**.



Our area of interest this month is **time** related. We are currently collecting a variety of objects related to a *night time* theme and would gladly welcome any objects which your child could bring in. Example objects may include an alarm clock, a night dress, pyjamas, a star shaped item, a moon shaped item, a cuddly toy such as an owl, etc. Talk to your child about different times of the day, e.g. morning, time breakfast time, before school, after school, night time... Explore the differences between night and day, e.g. the moon and the sun.

It would be helpful if all objects sent were named. Objects will be returned safely at the end of the topic.

Thank-you.

Pyjama Party



We invite nursery pupils to a Pyjama party on **Thursday 27th October**.

Children may come to nursery in their pyjamas, participate in party games and enjoy party snacks.

(There will be no painting on 27th October).

I can do it...

Please take some time to help your child develop their independence. Encouraging them to take off and put on their own coat and shoes at home will really benefit them. Children are being asked to take off and hang up their own coats every day and we will be working hard to help your child to learn to put on their own coat. Children are also being encouraged to take off their own shoes/welly boots and to put them on again. Of course they will get support when needed but we are always striving to develop this independence.

Encourage your child to wash their own hands at home as well. Show them how to pull up their own sleeves and how to rub their hands together.

Please ensure children are kept at home when they are unwell.

Rufus

Safefood, in partnership with the Department of Education, has launched their 'Rufus' handwashing programme, which aims to make handwashing habits fun, whilst keeping germs at bay. I have sent home a little poster to help encourage the continuity of good handwashing habits at home.



Toileting

Please remember to take your child to the toilet before leaving home each morning. I'm sure you can appreciate how busy nursery life is upon arrival at present. Ensuring that children use the bathroom or are changed before leaving home really helps support staff and your child at this time.

Holidays and Closures

Friday 30th September

Friday 28th October - Wednesday 2nd November

Thursday 22nd December - Tuesday 3rd January

(Returning to nursery on Wednesday 4th January 2023)

Nursery will close early at 11.00am on Tuesday 25th October and on Thursday 27th October, to facilitate parent-teacher meetings.

(Nursery will close early at 11.00am on Wednesday 21st December)

Story Sacks

We have a variety of story sacks which will be available for home lending soon. Each sack contains 3 books and a soft toy, however, due to ongoing Covid related guidance, the soft toys will not be included in your bags this year. It is our hope that these sacks will encourage bedtime stories in your home, further develop your child's language skills, and also give you and your child an opportunity to bond and have some time together.

We have a self-lending system in place so that you may take sacks out and return them at your leisure. We have a file in the nursery foyer beside the story sacks. We ask that you sign each sack in and out when you take one. All sacks have a label with the name of the sack on it. E.g. Fairy Tale bag one, Fairy Tale bag two, Dinosaur bag one, Dinosaur bag two...

You may keep your story sack for a few days but we would ask that you keep sacks for no more than 1 week. Please remember to just take out one sack at a time. We would also ask that you check all sacks before returning and that you please respect these lovely resources.

Please look after them for us and ensure that they are not used outside of the home.

Hope you enjoy!

Uniform

Please remember to name all items of uniform and spare clothing. It can be an impossible task to find mislaid items if they have not been named. We appreciate your co-operation on this matter.

