



## Newsletter – January 2019



Whats has been happening over the last month...



We hope you had a lovely time over the festive period. We'd like to thank everyone for their support in our very busy month of December.

### Important notices

- **Themes** – Buttercups and Sunflowers will be engaging in some buildings and materials activities. Please feel free to ask a member of staff in your child's unit about what they are doing and what activities you might like to carry on at home.
- **Holiday Club** – We are now taking bookings for the February half term holiday club. **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.** Holiday club planning is on our website <http://sallywags-nursery.com/holiday-club/february-half-term-2019/>. Please book your child's space before the end of term. To do this please email your requested dates or see Vicky or Jade in the office.
- **Birthday Cakes** – We have too many cakes coming into nursery. Some children have allergies, and some are eating cake nearly every day. This is not in line with our healthy eating policy so please do not bring cakes/sweets or ANY food into nursery. We will still be celebrating your child's birthday by using a birthday hat, stickers and a pretend cake with candles.
- **School readiness workshop** – We would like to invite all parents whose children will be leaving us to go to school in September 2019 to attend a School readiness workshop. This will be at **6pm to 7pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**. Please book your space with Vicky or Jade in the office.
- **Recommend a friend** - Recommend a friend and you will receive a £20 gift card for Mothercare/Early Learning centre when they start. Please inform management when you have recommended us to a friend or been referred by an existing customer.
- **After-school club** – Please could you extend us the courtesy of letting us know by 2.30pm if you child **DOES NOT** need collecting by Scallywags on one of their booked days. It concerns staff when they are expecting to pick up a child and they have already been collected or are not in school due to illness etc... We have a duty to safeguard all children so we need to be informed if we are not collecting your child on that day. The member of staff and children are delayed when they have to spend time ensuring that the absent child is safe before they leave

### Developing our Communication, Language and our Phonic skills.

Communication and language have always been an important aspect of children's learning. We would like to share what we do in at Scallywags in order to give you an understanding of this before your child starts to learn about phonics (letters and sounds). We place a lot of focus on raising the children's awareness of the sounds around them and developing their listening skills.

Music Playtime – Music has always been an important activity at Scallywags as it helps develop the whole child especially in communication and language. During Music Playtime the children are using the instruments to make sounds and their bodies to help develop an awareness of rhythm. This will help children be more aware of different sounds, the way sounds can change and their listening skills. Music Playtime also helps children to make decisions e.g. choosing which instrument to use. We have also noticed that when children are first starting to speak that they will communicate using single words over which song they would like e.g. row, row. Scallywags employs a specialist music teacher (Mary) who also trains the staff to deliver our music.

Storytime – Sharing stories is a great way to develop communication and language skills naturally. We love using props and character voices when telling stories. As your child grows, we share a wide range of books including information books. We will encourage your child to talk about the story/book and join in with repeated phrases.

Letters and Sounds – As your child grows, they will become more aware of the sounds in the environment and the sounds we use for communication. When your child is ready, we will start to introduce them to letters and sounds, starting with the letters that are important to them e.g. the initial letter/sound in their name. They will also start to learn letters and sounds phonics (based on the letters and sounds program published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007). More information about Sunflowers phonics program will be available in our Literacy and Numeracy workshop in March 2019.

What you can do at home - Sing songs and rhymes during daily routines e.g. changing a nappy, bathtime etc....

- Talk about the different sounds you hear in the environment or when reading a story e.g. the tractor goes "chug chug".

- Model being a listener as well as a talker by listening to the children and taking account of what they say in your responses to them.

With younger children make eye contact and wait for a reaction when you call their name or talk to them. With pre-school aged children, wait and allow your child some time to start a conversation.

- Use speech to describe what you are doing, or what your child is doing e.g. 'I see what you are doing. You have to put the milk in the cup first.'

- Build your child's vocabulary by giving choices, e.g. 'apple or satsuma?' and extend this by adding a few more words to their talk e.g.

your child says "car. you could say "It's a blue car".

### Dates / Calendar of events

1<sup>st</sup> January - **New Years Day - Nursery is closed.**

5<sup>th</sup> January – **Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh festival)**

6<sup>th</sup> January – **Epiphany**

**February Half Term Holiday Club – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.**