



## **Birchfield Nursery School** **Newsletter October 2016**

### **Early Years National Funding Formula**

Thank you for your support around the future of the nursery. You may have seen on Facebook the visit from our local MP Derek Twigg when we raised our concerns. He is very supportive of nursery education and has brought our concerns to the attention of RT Hon Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education and has asked that this matter is investigated. He will contact us again once he has received a reply.

Last week I met with the Ann McIntyre Operational Director for Education in Halton and Jill Farrell Interim Divisional Manager for education 0-19 with the Headteacher from Warrington Road and Ditton Nursery. Halton are working with us as nursery schools to look at possible options to keep us sustainable in the future. We will come back and consult with you about any future plans but we are remaining positive that we may be able to find a way to ensure the nursery is here for future generations.

### **Mini Rugby**

We will be starting Mini Rugby sessions in November on Wednesdays, this worked very successfully last year and each key carer group will access a 10 week programme during the year. The first groups will be Squirrels and Ducks. Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate footwear and jogger/leggings so they can enjoy the session. A separate letter will be sent to the groups concerned.

### **Missing Sessions**

We would like to remind all parents/carers that we plan learning across the 3 hour session and the children do miss out when they go home early. A number of parents have managed to change things around so that their children can stay for the last key carer focused teaching session, thank you for this, your children will benefit and will be fully involved in the maths and literacy programmes as we start to put in further learning especially next term, this helps prepare them fully for school.

Please also make sure you let us know if your child is unable to attend due to illness or holiday, it is important they come to nursery on a regular basis and build up good habits for school. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Self-help skills**

All the children are doing really well settling in to nursery however we have noticed this year an increased number of children struggling with self-help skills and becoming independent, this has become obvious in our baseline assessments and is a key area for children to make progress before they can start to learn in other areas of the curriculum. Please work hard with toilet skills during the half term to support your child, making sure they can go on their own and wash their hands, also putting on and taking off coats, hats, gloves and wellies ready for the colder weather.



### **Group updates**

**Hedgehogs** - Have been learning all about colour mixing and are learning to sing and sign the Rainbow song with Makaton signs.

**Squirrels** - Archie found a conker in Victoria Park and brought it in to show everyone, the group have all been bringing in signs of Autumn to share in the basket and the enthusiasm has spread from afternoon to morning groups, last week one child told us a conker "hatched" out of its shell, the squirrels are recording their learning about Autumn in their group book.

**Ducks** - Are busy colour mixing, identifying and investigating, they are going to find out how celery can change colour and turn red!

**Badgers** - Enjoying finding about colours and this week are learning a song from all around the world, see if they can sing it to you!

PLEASE TURN OVER



## Dates for your diary



Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	School closes for half term holiday – Normal times
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Schools opens
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Meg and Mog day - Visit from Zoolab with animals for the children to meet, based around a Meg and Mog story. Children can dress up as witches or wizards if they want to.
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November 6.00 -7.30pm	Open evening for adults only. Come and have a look around our nursery school and meet your child's key carer. Please note this is not a formal meeting with appointments, just a chance to have a brief chat and see how your child is settling in to nursery and ask any questions you may have. This is particularly useful for working parents who are unable to come to nursery during the day and speak to Key carers.
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week – “Power for Good” Focus on kind hands and being good friends.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day “Spotacular” – children can wear something spotty or related to Pudsey bear if they want to. We will be doing some fun Pudsey Bear activities and any voluntary donations will be collected to send to Children in Need to help other boys and girls.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Raffle to be drawn
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Polar Pyjama Day, children can come in pyjamas and slippers for a lovely session with hot chocolate and marshmallows to make us feel Christmassy. You will be given a secret ticket for your child to get on the polar express, don't tell them!!
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Group fun day with traditional games.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	JJ the Clown and whole nursery party. Children can come in party dress if they would like to. Please bring children in <b>later</b> so we can set up for the party. 9.30am start for morning children 1.15pm start for afternoon children
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	A special surprise visitor in our own grotto! Please don't tell them who but let your child's key carer know if you think they may be apprehensive.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes early for Christmas break <b>Morning doors open at 10.45 am – please collect by 11.00am</b> <b>Afternoon doors open at 2.45pm – please collect by 3.00pm</b>

Enjoy your half term holiday!

Lindsey Weedall  
Head Teacher