



Gargrave Road, Skipton North Yorkshire BD23 1PJ **Tel. + Fax (01756) 709451**

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Registered Charity No. 1075176

Spring Term 1 2018

Happy New Year!

A very warm welcome to all the new children and their families, we have three children starting with us this January.

So far, all children are settling really well; the older children making us very proud by helping the new ones in every way they can!

Themes

This term in Foundation stage we will be basing our learning around the theme of 'Winter', reading the story 'Jack Frost' by Kazuno Kohara and 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. So far we have enjoyed making ice in Nursery, playing with a variety of Polar animals and roleplaying in our 'Ice Palace'!

Primary school Admissions September 2017

You will have already applied online for a primary school place for September 2017 if your child will be due to start school in the academic year 2017-18.

Please would you also return our own **St Stephens Catholic Primary School admission form**, to be considered for a school place in our Reception Class. For any queries please see Mrs Millington in the school office.

Car parking Reminder

Car parking is provided in the car park opposite the school (Coach Street car park, for approx. 10 minutes) while collecting or dropping off the children. Please do not drive up and park on the Avenue at **any time**. Thank you.

Learning Journeys on Tapestry

Thank you for your feedback regarding 'Tapestry', and the many positive comments we have received.

We have many parents who regularly contribute to their child's learning journey, with photos and comments. We really appreciate these and this does give us a wider understanding of your child's abilities and achievements. Feedback has indicated that accessing Tapestry through downloading the app to a mobile or tablet is the most straightforward way to add photos, so do have a go!

The version accessed through your browser, instead of the App, will give you a more comprehensive 'Tapestry' experience, with access to the 'All about me' page (you can edit this at any time to update the information on your child, and staff will regularly take a look to keep up to date). There is also useful a 'Help' menu.

If you have any further queries or difficulties with Tapestry at any time please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Turvill. Take a look at the 'about me' section of the Tapestry (web version) and complete.

Downloading your child's Learning Journey

If you would like a copy of the learning journal at any time, please email Miss Wilkinson at the School office, and we will authorise for you to download.

We aim for you to download the journal, on a termly basis, as you can appreciate, it will be a considerable size at the end of the academic year!

The Nativity

Just a reminder, we are happy to make a copy of the Nativity performances if you send in a memory stick/CD.

Outdoor Play

Please ensure your child is dressed for outdoor play every session. Hats and gloves are a must plus a warm waterproof coat, and lots of (named!) layers are useful and cosy for children who like to spend plenty of time outside. Children should also bring a named bag with spare clothes, including socks; these tend to get wet quickly, even in wellies!

Stay and Play

Parents, grandparents and carers are most welcome to come and join their child and experience the activities on offer in Nursery. Please talk to Mrs Turvill or send a message through the school office to arrange a session. This can be on a regular basis or just as a one off.

For further general information on the EYFS for parents, www.foundationyears.org.uk provides a useful Parents Area.

Nursery Fund

To provide baking and gardening activities and to offer a healthy variety of snacks, in addition to the free milk and fruit in Nursery, we rely on contributions to our Nursery Fund. Please return £2 for this half term promptly. Thank you.

From home

We are collecting the white inner packets (clean and empty!) from cereal boxes and milk bottle tops (red and blue) to use in our work. Donations of unwanted houseplants for us to look after, and metal pots and saucepans with lids for the outdoor kitchen would also be appreciated!

Self-help skills

At this time of year when there are many coughs, colds and bugs around, to prevent the spread of illness, we are making an extra effort to ensure the children are cleaning their hands well and drying thoroughly. Please help by teaching how to blow noses and use tissues effectively!

Scissor Skills

The children in Nursery love to use scissors for the many creative activities we do and sometimes just for the love of snipping!

Developing good scissor skills is an essential skill to master in the early years, a list of just some of the benefits for promoting scissor skills is included at the end of the newsletter.

There are many great and simple activities to set up at home to help your child to practise, please just ask if you would like any further ideas.

Have fun!

Thank you for your continued support, please let us know if you have any further queries,

The Nursery Team

Dates for your Diary

January

February:

Friday February: School and Nursery close at end of school day for half term.

Monday February: Nursery and School re-opens.



Why Are Scissor Skills SO Important?

Build Fine Motor Strength

- Cutting allows a child to build up the little muscles in their hands with the open and close motion. These muscles are so important for writing, painting, and doing everyday things like brushing your teeth, eating with utensils, and getting dressed.

Develop Eye-Hand Coordination

- Cutting requires kids to use their eyes and hands in unison to accomplish the cutting task. Eye-hand coordination is important for catching/throwing balls, eating with a spoon, and zipping a coat.

Increase Bilateral Coordination

- Cutting encourages your child to use both sides of the body at the same time while each hand is performing its own task. When cutting a shape, a child must hold the paper with one hand while the other hand is opening and closing the scissors and moving forward to cut. This is essential for tasks like zipping up a coat or pants, washing dishes, and opening an envelope.

Improve Focus and Attention

- Cutting out shapes takes concentration and attention to detail. Both skills are necessary for success not only in the classroom but in everyday life. The ability to sustain focus is essential to being able to read books, listen to instruction and complete many other classroom tasks.

