



Welcome to Nursery

Dear Parents

Welcome or welcome back to Nursery! We have an exciting time of educational activities planned for the next year and there will be many new challenges to experience! This is just a brief introductory note to help keep you informed about our work and immediate concerns.

I am Miss Meale the new Nursery class teacher and I am very much looking forward to teaching the Nursery children. We are very lucky to still have Mrs Whiting supporting us in the Nursery. Welcome back to the children who started Nursery in January. Welcome to the new children starting Nursery during the week beginning 7th September.

Start of the session: Nursery begins at **9.00am** or **12.55pm**. The children come in to a 'settling in table top activity' each day and Happy Helpers will choose their sharing packs. The door is closed at 9.10am/1.05pm and the register is taken. If you arrive after the register has been taken, please visit School Office to sign your child in.

End of the session: Nursery ends at 11.30am or 3.25pm.

Topics: our topics for this term are:

- **All about me.** The children will be exploring what they look like, their homes, families and their favourite things. This topic will start after a two week settling in period. It will continue until half term.
- **Autumn and Colours.** In this topic children will be introduced to Autumn and look at Autumn animals and change. The children will explore colours and colour mixing.
- **Christmas.** The children will learn about the Christmas Festival and take part in Christmas activities and crafts. We will perform a Christmas Concert where the children will learn new songs. Further information will follow on topics in the Spring Term.

News and Showing: Sharing/News Day is on a Monday. To help us help your child to share their News, the children bring home a book in which parents write a few sentences about the weekend. News sessions will begin on Monday 21st September. Children may bring in an object on Monday if it is linked to their weekend e.g. a photo, guide book. Please discourage your child from bringing toys etc from home into Nursery.

P.E: Children in the Nursery do P.E in the hall on Tuesdays. The children remove plimsolls, socks and jumpers. (It may also help your child to dress more independently if tights are not worn on this day, if possible).

Footwear: Please could you ensure that your child has a pair of **named** plimsolls, or the equivalent, as their indoor shoes. Plimsolls are sometimes worn during PE, both in the hall and outside, and therefore slippers etc are not suitable.

Could you also ensure your child has a pair of outdoor shoes that they can put on and take off themselves (ie no laces, tricky buckles, some fashion boots etc). This encourages independence and enables your child to play indoors and outdoors whenever they want to during Child Initiated Play.

We would like to make you aware that the school policy is that 'cros' are not suitable footwear and therefore children are unable to wear them for Nursery.

Snack: During 'Child Initiated Play' your child can choose when they would like to have their milk/water and snack. The school participates in the Free Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. We do also have other foods as well, such as toast, raisins, tropical fruits, bread sticks etc and foods relating to topics. To help with the cost of this please could you contribute £3 per term. Please put the money into a named envelope. Thank you.

Home activities:

- **Books/Sharing Packs:** Your child will be able to choose a Sharing Pack (usually a book with activities/games) to bring home. We ask that you or someone at home can take the time to share the book with your child to help them develop an interest of stories and books. Sharing Packs will be changed in your child's Helper Day. On this day, please put book bags in the white box, ready for choosing a new pack. We also have a selection of books to borrow. Books can be chosen at the beginning of the session on **Thursdays** with Mrs Whiting. Sharing packs and Library Books will start in the week beginning Monday 21st September.

- **Singing rhymes:** We would encourage you to sing nursery rhymes and songs at home with your child/children as research shows that learning rhymes builds important foundation skills for reading and spelling.

Illness: Please let us know if your child is ill and will not be attending school. If you are unable to inform the school of an absence on the day, we must have a letter or telephone call explaining the situation promptly following it. If your child requires medicine at school, a form must be filled in before staff are able to give any medicines.

Although Swine Flu seems to have died down at present, we will remain vigilant and to follow County advice on hand washing to minimise the risk. If your child is unwell at school and we suspect that they may have Swine Flu we will let you know. If your child is unwell at home and you think that they may have it please let us know as soon as possible.

Health & Safety: All children must have a baseball cap/sun hat in the summer term. Please remember the children should not wear jewellery to school, except watches, stud earrings and medic alert jewellery for serious medical conditions.

Punctuality: It is vital that your child is in school and ready to work on time. Lateness is often a cause of distress to children as they feel embarrassed and confused when they miss the start of the session. It is also very disruptive for the rest of the class and the class teacher if children drift in after the start time.

To help us ensure all children are safe and secure we have decided that once the door is closed by Nursery staff at 9.10am/1.05pm, parents whom have not yet left will need to leave via the school hall. We would like to ask parents not to open the door again. If you arrive after the door has been closed, please walk around to the side entrance where a member of staff can let your child in.

Tissues: We greatly appreciated all the families who sent in a box or two of tissues last year. We get through a huge amount with general sniffles, sneezes and the odd tear. For this year, please would you send in a box of tissues this month and we will let you know when we need some more.

Healthy Snacks: It is now school policy that children are not allowed to bring in sweets on their birthday, although we will still celebrate in class.

Behaviour: Our policy is designed to promote a consistent approach to maintaining good behaviour within the school so that all children learn to develop positive, pro-social behaviour. We aim to praise rather than punish and to develop an ethos where children seek to win praise rather than attract punishment. It is acknowledged that this can best be achieved by a positive approach to discipline. The vast majority of children will seek praise and rewards. In the classroom this is given in a variety of ways:

- words of praise and encouragement
- a reward sticker or mark of praise in a child's book
- display of a good piece of work
- public acknowledgement of good behaviour, work etc in assembly
- messages to parents
- sharing work with the Headteacher

Each class agrees, publishes and displays a set of Golden Rules that they believe will help everyone in their class to work purposefully and to get along harmoniously in the class and the playground. Behaviour at Morgans is generally very good. On the rare occasion of more serious offences the school will follow the school behavioural policy.

Further information about our topics or requests will be given as appropriate. Please check the window for any updates. If you have any questions or problems regarding your child please come in and talk to us.

Many thanks.

Miss Meale and Mrs Whiting

7th September 2009