

# St Mary's Nursery School



## APRIL Newsletter

"The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct." – Carl Jung



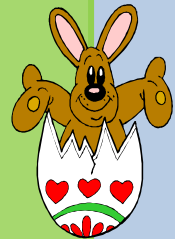
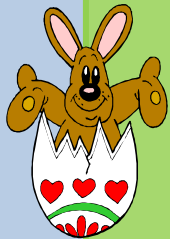
### School Holidays

School will finish at 11.30am on  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
is an Exceptional Closure Day for staff training

School will be closed:  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April (inclusive)  
for our Easter Break

We will reopen as usual on  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April



### Children's Progress Report and Parent/Teacher Meetings

Progress documents will be given out on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April and must be signed, your first preference primary school indicated and returned to your child's teacher by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April - you will then be furnished with a copy. Meetings will take place in the week beginning Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, dates and times will be given out individually.

These will give us an opportunity to discuss how your child is enjoying Nursery School and what we can do to ensure they get the maximum benefit from their last term in Nursery School.

### Activities – Sharing From The Start Initiative

We are looking forward to seeing our friends from Lowwood Nursery Unit and Seaview Nursery Unit. Our friends will visit us on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April for a joint session with Mr Hullabaloo. Mr Hullabaloo's Children's Interactive Theatre shows are filled with a host of unforgettable characters and fun songs. By combining a little fairy-tale magic, suspense and captivating adventures, a story shared provides the children with fun opportunities for creative learning.



## Educational Activities

**Farm Visit** - R1 & R2 will visit Streamvale Farm on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**.  
**Mr Hullabaloo** - we will have two additional visits from Mr Hullabaloo – **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**.



## Parental Consent for Educational Outings

Parents, we require your consent to bring your child on educational outings. **The third column of the consent form is where you indicate if you are free to join us.** You are always welcome! Thank you.

## Family Portrait Evening



We are delighted that Whitehall Studios are coming back for a Family Portrait Evening on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Parents will be given a booking form - if you wish to book a slot there will be a £5 non-refundable deposit. The photographer requires a minimum of 10 families for the event to run.

For those families who ordered digital downloads of their children's individual photos – you should have received these by now.

## Trocaire/Special School in India/Schools Funds

To foster an awareness of people less fortunate than ourselves, the children will take part in a sponsored sing-along on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 1.00pm in the Pastoral Centre. All sponsor money should be returned by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you!



## Visitors to the School



The children's awareness of people around us who help us was heightened by a very interesting and informative visit by the Fire Service on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. They showed the children a working Fire Engine! We are also looking forward to our friendly Ambulance Man, Sean, and his Ambulance arranging a visit shortly.



## Technology @ our School

The children are thoroughly enjoying using the iPads. As a staff we are finding they are flexible, accessible and the children are captivated by learning through using this state-of-the-art technology. They are also highly motivated whilst on the Smartboard and both mediums have enhanced the learning environment.



## Road Traffic Awareness

Safety on the farm and in the countryside shall be developed. Lots of discussions around dangerous farm machinery and the importance of washing your hands after touching animals, soil etc shall be encouraged.



## Hall Bags

Please remember to place a complete change of clothes into your child's hall bag, alongside their velcro-strapped shoes. Please ensure the School's hall bags remain in School. Thank you.

## Curriculum Matters:

### Maths for the month

This month's colour is brown. We will be mixing the primary colours to mix brown – so expect messy hands and uniforms! Encourage your child to look out for this colour and shape in their environment. Our shape for this month is oval ● .



### Topics for the month

The topic for this month is The Farm. The children will be exploring the concepts of heavy / light. Scales will be on offer around the room in sand and water trays, and at construction tables to give every opportunity to foster these concepts. We will also be discussing taller / shorter, modelling the language and fostering their use of mathematical language. We are looking forward to our visit to the farm.



Lots of activities shall involve produce from the farm: chopping vegetables in the house corner, making soup / butter, and exploring the ideas of where yoghurt, milk, pasta etc comes from. Lots of language / activities will continue to centre around changes: seasons, how food changes when cooked, animals change when they grow etc.



We will have good fun before our Easter Break taking part in some traditional activities, like egg painting, an Easter Egg Hunt and rolling our boiled eggs down the hill!

The Time to Talk programme is ongoing and we are developing their listening and turn-taking skills. Friendships are being fostered and nurtured, and respect for ourselves, others and living things are being promoted. Overall body management skills are continually being developed. As always we are also ensuring that all this learning is enjoyable and fun for our children.

### Talking Tip

Help your child develop good language and communication skills with this tip:

- Always respond in some way when your child says something.
- Try to extend their language and thinking skills with open ended questions.

You can help your child at home by...

1. Encouraging them to help in the garden - planting and raking the grass cuttings and talk about recycling in the bin - nurture their awareness of their environment.
2. Allowing them to peg the clothes up to develop their finger muscles in preparation for writing.
3. Encourage good scissor grip and control by letting them cut out of magazines and newspapers whilst being supervised.

*Happy Easter*

