

December 2023



Busy Days at Strathfoyle Nursery School



Welcome to December's Newsletter. This is always a busy, but enjoyable month with plenty of exciting things going on in Nursery.

SNS Big Bedtime Read

The children really enjoyed our Big Bedtime Read on Friday 24th November. Look out for the photos on the school website. We hope you are enjoying the special reading time with your child at home using the weekly Story bag. Don't forget to return the bag every Friday! Story bags will be collected on Friday 15th December and will begin in January again.

It's Winter time and cold!

Please continue to send your children to SNS with a warm coat everyday as we will venture out most days. Names on all hats, scarves, shoes, jumpers please.

As the weather turns colder, please continue to hold your child's hand when arriving and leaving SNS— Jack Frost is on his way!



Dates for your Diary

7th December— Banyan Theatre visit. 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' @ 10:30am

14th December—Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day—EA Family Appeal (All money donated will go to the local community) A special visitor will visit Nursery! Ho ho ho!

19th December— Christmas Nativity *Miss O'Kane's class* arrive to SNS@ 8:45am, Nativity Play @ 9:45am followed by refreshments (parents invited) then children go home @ 11am with parents.

Mrs Doherty's class arrive SNS @ 11:30am, Nativity Play @ 12:30pm followed by refreshments (parents invited) then children go home at 1:15pm with parents

There will be a picnic lunch served to the children while adults are having refreshments on this day.

20th December— Magician visit @11am

21st December—Christmas Party. Children may wear their own clothes. SNS finishes at 11.30am

In the spirit of giving and receiving this Christmas, we kindly ask that parents refrain from bringing presents for staff. SNS community will be supporting the EA Family Appeal and ask for a small donation from each family on our Christmas jumper/dinner day on 14th December 2023.



Health and Well Being

Thank you parents for continuing to monitor your children's wellness and energy levels at this time of year, when children are prone to sickness. Please only send your child to Nursery if they are well. Nursery will not be enjoyable for them if they are sick. Thank you parents for informing us if your child is absent.

Applications for SNS 2024 Intake

Prospective parents and children for September 2024 intake are welcome to visit at our

**Open day Thursday 7th December 2023
from 2pm-4pm**

Please let family and friends with pre-school children know.

Key Dates for Nursery & P1 September 2024 Intake

12th December 2023 Admissions Criteria published

9th January 2024 EA Connect for online applications opens at 12 noon

26th January 2024 EA Connect for online applications closes at 12 noon

Key Vocabulary

Christmas—presents, gifts, The Christmas Story, Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Shepherds, wise men, donkey, Christmas Tree, decorations, Santa stockings.

Winter—frost, snow, ice, cold, freezing, slippery, icy, melting, sparkling, glittering, blizzard, softly,

Skills and Attributes being developed this month

PSED—I am trying hard to build on my play skills, interact with my friends.

-Adult led activities—learn to focus on and complete a task

-LD—Attention and listening—following instructions—become familiar with Christmas vocabulary and first Christmas story

-The Arts—learning Christmas songs and exploring percussion instruments, taking on a role.

-EME—explore colour and shape

-Use my early Maths language in play—size/positional



This is how you can help me...

-Talk with me about key Christmas and Winter vocabulary

-Share a story with me and encourage me to take turns as I turn the pages

-Look at patterns, shape and colour on wrapping paper—design your own blank strips

-Explore wrapped presents—use size language to describe them

-Take two presents—talk about comparisons between each one

-Let me help you with any outdoor garden jobs

-Remind me to hold your hand to and from SNS

Some Suggested ideas for Santa to bring your child

Jigsaws
Book

Colouring books and pencils

Building blocks

Board games—Orchard Toys brand

Matching games

Scissors and glue

A timer (to help with sharing)



Celebrate Christmas safely

December

Child Safety Tips

Ensure all Christmas lighting is switched off before leaving the house or going to bed

Burn candles in a suitable secure holder. Keep children away from lighted candles and extinguish properly before going to bed

Fit a smoke detector upstairs and downstairs, and check batteries every Monday.



All the staff would like to thank you for your support this term and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again on Friday 5th January 2024