

Weekly Learning Letter

Friday 23rd November 2023

This week in Nursery:

The children continue to be excited about our autumn activities. They have enjoyed the new woodland animal small world area, creating wonderful scenarios in their imaginary play. They have also been using the magnifying glasses to examine the different bugs. This has generated lots of interesting talk and hunts for creepy crawlies outside. Also, outside the children have been dressing up as firemen and women, putting out fires and coming to the rescue. Whilst inside, they have been getting the babies ready for winter by dressing them in woolly jumpers and other warm clothes. What a lovely bunch of caring children we have!

In cooking this week, the children made yummy shortbread. They worked hard to knead the cookie dough ready for it to be rolled and cut. They were also particularly excited and safety conscious about using a hand-held blender to mix the ingredients together and were very observant in noticing how the ingredients changed as a result.



We like to say a huge thank you to Evangeline's mummy who organized and facilitated a fabulous session with the children on Tuesday, to create magical headbands for our Christmas performance. She was very impressed with their creativity and how well the children listened to instructions. Well done children!

A big focus for us this week has been around cutting skills and we have been doing lots of practising, making collages out of old magazines and creating beautiful snowflakes. Scissor skill development is a huge milestone for young children. Opening and closing scissors for example, helps children build up the small muscles in their hands, which are important for everyday activities such as drawing, using cutlery, brushing teeth and getting dressed. It also helps with hand-eye coordination as the children learn to watch where they are cutting, using their eyes to guide how they should move next. Additionally, using scissors helps children learn to use both sides of their bodies as cutting encourages children to do different things with each side of their body, which in turns helps with zipping up coats, doing the dishes (hooray!) and writing. So, as you can see, there is so much fabulous learning going on in just one small part of an activity, so do encourage this at home whenever you get the chance.





With just under two weeks to go until our Christmas performance, Emily continues to get the best out of the children during music. We are so very proud of how much the children have already remembered. You're all in for a lovely treat, so do bring some tissues as we know there's some real show stoppers that are bound to lead to a few tears of joy – and that will just be the Nursery adults!

Things to Note:

• **Donation for a Decoration – Thursday 30th November**

Six days to go until our [Donation for a Decoration](#) event. We are looking forward to seeing you all and getting into the festive mode. It will be a lovely opportunity for you to spend some time creating a decoration with your child for the Nursery Christmas tree, in time for our special Christmas performance the following week. Any donations will go towards resources for the Nursery. There will be two sessions and these are as follows:

- 8.45am – 9.25am
- 12.30 – 1.30pm

• **Christmas Season Singalong – Thursday 7th December**

Don't forget our seasonal performance on Thursday 7th December. There will be two performances, and after each performance there will be time to enjoy a mince pie or two and an opportunity to talk with other parents and staff. The times are as follows:

- 10.45 – 11.15am
- 2.30pm – 3.00pm

• **Starting primary school in 2024**

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2024, please remember, the deadline for school applications is **Monday 15th January 2024**. If you need any help completing the online application, please do talk to a member of staff.



Nursery

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- **Parent Meetings**

On Friday 12th January 2024, we will be holding parent meetings during the school day for all children currently attending nursery. Subsequently, the nursery will be closed on this day. A sign-up sheet will be available at drop off and pick up from **Monday 4th December**.

- **Spring Term Start Date**

Please note that Nursery will reopen on **Monday 15th January 2024**. This is later than the main school, as nursery staff will be attending home visits for the new children during the first week back in January.

And finally, if you're off to the Kilmorie Winter Fair this Saturday, we hope you have a wonderful time. Stay warm, stay well and see you next week!

Katrina, Sophie, Liz, Fiona and Tracey.



Vegan Shortbread Cookies

Ingredients

- 200 g / 7 oz dairy-free butter
- 1 tsp vanilla flavouring
- 100 g / 3.5 oz caster sugar
- 300 g / 10.5 oz plain flour, sifted

Instructions

1. Cream the butter, vanilla and sugar together. Stir in the flour and mix into a dough. Wrap in cling film and chill in the fridge for at least 30 minutes to firm up.
2. Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 160C / 140C (fan) / 320F and line a baking tray with parchment paper.
3. Once the dough is chilled, roll out to approximately ½ cm thickness and cut into shapes. Place on the baking sheet, sprinkle with a little extra sugar and bake for 12-15 minutes until golden brown at the edges, turning half way through to