

Welcome to our November newsletter and as always, warm greetings to the new families that have joined us recently, we have had another busy month. The children have enjoyed:

- Creating firework and bonfire pictures
- Carving pumpkins
- Making firework breadstick snacks and chocolate apples
- Doing lots of climbing on the outdoor equipment
- Taking part in developmental movement play sessions
- Using the numicon to represent number
- Talking about bonfire night

We have also reintroduced our everywhere bear to the children and he is looking forward to spending time at our children's houses.



## Celebrate

Recently we have celebrated  
Halloween and Bonfire Night

### Introducing the everywhere bear.....

Some of our parents will know who the everywhere bear is but for those who don't the Everywhere Bear was introduced to the children last week. Each child will have the opportunity to take home the Everywhere Bear and document his adventures in his own learning journal.

The idea behind the Everywhere Bear is that it is a link between nursery and home. He will teach children about communities wider than our own.

The Everywhere Bear will come home on different days each week dependent on your child's days and will be returned on their next session.

**The everywhere Bear has a home on a shelf  
But he doesn't spend very much time by himself  
For each boy and girl in the class is his friend.**

There is no expectation for you to do anything with the Everywhere Bear, he's just coming to spend time with each child – please send photos of his time with you to the parent partnership email and we will print them for his book.

He will be sprayed with antibacterial spray between each visit but if you would rather him not visit your house just yet due to covid then please just let us know.



### Together Time Collections

Please can we politely ask that children are not collected during our together times as these are an important part of our day.

We have them at 11.10-11.25 and 3.15-3.30

We do respect that parents have siblings to collect or appointments to get to so if you are planning to collect early please can we ask that you arrive before together time.

Parents arriving during together times are politely asked to wait until together times are finished so as not to disrupt them and children will be brought to parents individually.

Are you aware that our EYFS age children and a 7 year old have a significantly different skeletal structure in their hands?

Take a look at the two photos, do you notice the differences? These differing skeletal structures make a massive difference to a child's ability to practice many fine motor skills such as writing, using scissors and picking up small objects.

The bones in the wrist of the EYFS age child photo (3 years old) are still made up of mainly cartilage, there are many spaces in between the bones where muscles and tendons will change, develop and strengthen throughout the years.

Some children will develop a love of writing and drawing where as others don't show much interest at all - don't let writing become a battle or worry if your child doesn't show an interest in writing or drawing it will come eventually, for now concentrate on fine motor skills to develop hand and finger strength - research also suggests that boys can often appear less interested in writing and drawing than girls.

Pre-writing skills are essential for a child to be able to develop the ability to hold and move a pencil effectively and therefore produce legible writing. These skills not only contribute to the child's ability to hold and use a pencil but also the ability to draw, write, copy, and colour.

Preschool children have so many developmental building blocks to go through first before writing readiness

 Hand and finger strength

 Pencil grasp

 hand eye coordination

 Object manipulation

 Upper body strength

 Visual perception

 Hand dominance

The above are just to name a few!!

While they are growing, strengthen those little bones and muscles with pre writing, muscle strengthening activities:

 Painting - use different size brushes and paints

 Drawing - try making marks in shaving foam and sand as well as the usual pencils

 Colouring with pencils, pens, crayons, chalks and charcoal

 Play-dough

 Tearing and cutting

 Gluing

 Digging in soil

 Building with Lego or other blocks

 Threading with beads and pasta

 Puzzles

 Squeezing - sponges/using pipettes/relaxation balls

 Picking up and throwing balls - try different size and shape balls

These all strengthen and help develop little hands, muscles, and bones. When they are physically ready to write, it will be so much easier than if they were pushed when they didn't want to and weren't ready



## SHOES

Please can we request that children are sent to nursery in shoes that encourage independence

### (Velcro/slip on shoes)

It can make a huge difference when children are able to put on their own shoes and they enjoy feeling "big" when they can do things for themselves, it also ticks one thing off your to do list when leaving the house if children can put their own shoes on as well as being independent for school.

We are finding that children particularly our school leavers, are regularly being broken off from play and learning to ask for their shoe laces tying.

A top tip of ours is to put half a happy face sticker inside each shoe - when the stickers make a full smile children will know their shoes are on the right feet.

Please don't feel offended if your child's key person mentions sending your child in Velcro shoes rather than laces.

## Health and safety

If your child has coronavirus symptoms, it is important for them to have a PCR test at a covid testing site.

In addition, if your child has had a covid test, please contact nursery by phone or email as soon as you receive the results. If your child has tested negative please inform us ahead of their return to nursery.

## HMRC additional funding codes (3 and 4 year olds)

If you are eligible and in receipt of additional 3 and 4 year old funding, look out for a prompt every three months from HMRC to reconfirm your details so that your eligibility can be reassessed. If you do not do this, please note that we are unable to claim the funding on your behalf.

If you are eligible for 30 hours funding from January you must make sure you have applied to HMRC no later than **31 December 2021** for funding to start from 1 January 2022. Apply [HERE](#)

### Important Dates

Children's Christmas Party **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021** – invites to follow  
Nursery will be closed from **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (re-open Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022)**

Our next staff training day will be on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022** – nursery will be closed on this day to children.  
day

### Labels in clothing

To avoid items being lost, please can you ensure that all belongings are clearly labelled, it is extremely hard to reunite children with their belongings if they are not labelled.



### Introducing Morgan Mai

Morgan Mai is currently working towards her T Level course in childcare at York College. She will join us on a Monday and Friday with a block week at Christmas right up until next summer and possibly beyond.

### Request from Maizie

Maizie is looking to revamp her sand area display and is asking parents if they could possibly send some photos of our children and their families enjoying their summer holidays, photos at the beach or children enjoying being in their sandpits at home to the parent partnership email.

Many Thanks for your help

### Nursery Coats

From the start of this half term, we have reverted back to using nursery coats, hats and gloves where possible whilst the children are enjoying outside to enable them to go home after their session wearing a warm, dry coat.

**Constipation, withholding, soiling, mega poos, runny poos, encopresis...** There are lots of different ways that children can experience a poo problem..

**For more information and advice on how to support children with developing healthy bowel and bladder habits please go to The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity website [ERIC](#)**



**Dear Parents and Carers, just a reminder that Kirkgate Childcare is a "nut free nursery". This is especially important as we have a child who is severely allergic to nuts therefore no nuts should be brought into nursery. We do acknowledge that many foods are now labelled as 'may have been produced in a factory handling nuts and cannot be guaranteed to be nut free'. Such items will be allowed as it would be unreasonable to expect these to be kept out of nursery, however please do not send items clearly labelled as containing nuts such as Nutella or alternatives within your child's pack ups.**



Kirkgate  
Childcare  
FOUNDATIONS FOR LIFE  
November 2021 Newsletter