

**What have we been doing in nursery this month:**

We're only at the start of December but the children have already done so much.



- We've seen lots of schemas in action – tipping, enclosing, transporting, trajectory – read more about schemas [HERE](#)
- Made enclosures for animals using playdough
- Explored numbers using numicon, flash cards and loose parts
- Developmental movement play sessions
- Listening to stories
- Learning our new Christmas songs
- Posted our letters to Santa
- Christmas crafts

We now have an air quality monitor in setting as part of a government roll out. The idea of these monitors is to pick up areas of poor ventilation and we are pleased to say that wherever our monitor is placed in setting we receive a good reading. The monitor records as good, normal or poor.



Your child is invited to Kirkgate childcare's Christmas party on Friday 17th December 2020 – you should have received an invite with details of which party (AM or PM) to attend. Please speak to your Childs key person if you haven't received yours

**Thank you for your understanding with swapping sessions during this week to enable all children to attend the Christmas party.**

Santa's Grotto will be open at the end of each party. As per last year Santa will walk by nursery and leave a present in the grotto.

We will be celebrating Christmas and there will be lots of activities to do, these will include:

- Christmas crafts
- Decorating biscuits
- Dancing and singing our Christmas songs
- Chocolate coin hunt
- Visit to Santa's grotto to receive a gift
- Festive Snacks You can collect your child from nursery at the time stated on the invite

You can collect your child from nursery at the time stated on the invite depending on which party your child is attending this will be 11.00am or 3pm and visit Santa's grotto in the Old girl's school to collect your child's present and Christmas Crafts.

**Celebrate**

This month will see us celebrating:  
Christmas  
Hannukah – festival of lights

**Parent Partnership is crucial to us and your child.** Thank you to all those parents who share their child's adventures and achievements via our parent email (kirkgatechildcarePP@outlook.com) and in their Learning journey.

Please could you let us know if you and your family celebrate any religious festivals and we will share these at nursery.

Please take a look at our planning board which is displayed in the home corner.

Please remember to answer the question of the month by putting a glass pebble in the yes or no box in the entrance.

If you would like to see what your child has been learning, we regularly share photos and updates on our website blog and Facebook

**Childcare Choices**

If your child turns three between **1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December** you may be eligible for 30 hours free childcare for 38 weeks of the year, for the term starting on or after the **1<sup>st</sup> January**.

The recommended time to apply is **15<sup>th</sup> October to the 30<sup>th</sup> November**

Funding can be applied for anytime from when your child is **2 years and 36 weeks old** and you must have a valid code by the end of the month before a new term starts.

**If you already receive funding, please remember to re confirm – we are not able to claim funding unless your code is valid**

[Click for more information](#)

Have you applied for school?  
If you have a child born between **1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018**. They are due to start school in **September 2022**.

The primary school application round is now open and the deadline to apply is by midnight on **15 January 2022**. For more information visit <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/apply-place-primaryor-secondary-school>

**National Offer Day  
19.04.2022**

### Warm Clothes



Please can you ensure to send your child in appropriate warm clothes or have additional layers in their bags, it has become particularly cold over the last week – access to outdoors is still open all day every day.

Following government guidance we are required to keep nursery well ventilated to control the spread of COVID-19 this means that the door to our outdoor area or windows are to be open at all times.

Children should where possible bring a spare jumper or warm top in case they become wet whilst playing. Remember to label belongings

### COVID-19 UPDATE

This week all parents should have received a warn and inform letter regarding COVID-19 cases within the nursery community. We would like to reassure you that all cases have been contracted outside of nursery where someone else in the household has tested positive beforehand. It would be impossible for us to say that no children have been in contact with the positive cases however we can be fairly certain that they haven't due to working days/date of symptoms starting/isolation periods and children's sessions.

Whilst we understand that being asked to take your child out of nursery for a PCR test impacts many family's ability to go to work due to having children at home, we do have a duty of care to safeguard all children within the setting, we must all continue to be vigilant as cases are continuing to rise within our local area.

**If you are asked to take/or choose to take your child for a PCR test due to them having symptoms, they must not return to nursery until a negative PCR test result is received – please send notifications to the usual nursery email address.** If your child is identified as a contact in this instance, they can attend nursery as normal whilst awaiting a PCR result.

Over the last few days, we have contacted a number of families to ask that a PCR taken and been told that they have done lateral flow tests which were negative – unfortunately LFT's are not reliable when you have symptoms and are used for picking up asymptomatic cases.

The 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 remain a fever (temperature 37.80C or higher), a new continuous cough, or a change to/loss of taste or smell.

However, other commonly reported symptoms of the Delta variant include headache, sore throat, tiredness, and cold-like symptoms, so please be aware of these as well and stay at home and seek testing if you are in any doubt.

As per our previous guidance sent over the last week, children who are well or slightly under the weather but without COVID-19 symptoms should be tested using lateral flow devices.

**Children should not attend nursery if they need Calpol/Nurofen due to this masking COVID-19 symptoms – please don't feel offended if one of our team asks why children need Calpol or Nurofen.**

We continue to follow Government, Public Health and North Yorkshire guidance along with our own policies, procedures, and risk assessments.

We thank you in advance for your co-operation.



### Christmas gifts for staff

We have received enquiries from parents regarding gifts for staff, and if they are allowed to bring them in.

Whilst your generosity amazes us, our staff really do not expect gifts. We have had some amazing and supportive words of support from our families over the last year, and it is these messages which move and motivate us as a team.

However, if you would like to gift a present to the staff this Christmas, we would suggest that you bring this in ahead of the final day of term, so that they can be quarantined prior to being handed out to keep everyone as safe as possible this Christmas as per last year.

**Many Thanks for your continued support**

### MEET OUR STUDENT KATIE

Katie will work in nursery on a Monday and Tuesday 9am-5pm along with a block week at Christmas right up until next summer!

She is already a big hit with the children – we hope you enjoy your time with us!!

To read more about Katie follow the link below:

[About us - Kirkgate Childcare](#)



We have had a number of parents ask us for advice and ideas about what children can bring for lunch – if you haven't seen it already, we have now added a post to our Facebook page with lots of tasty ideas. Whilst we don't have a strict lunchbox policy, we are required to follow healthy eating guidelines so our only ask is that it's a balanced meal and doesn't contain sweets or fizzy drinks. Treats are allowed. Please remember to label lunchboxes and add an ice pack to keep lunchboxes fresh.

You might find our lunchbox blog useful

<https://kirkgatechildcare.co.uk/news/lets-talk-lunchboxes/>

### Arriving and leaving nursery

Please can we remind all parents that the safest way to enter and exit nursery is via the car exit ramp and then out or in through the gate in front of The Old Girls School.

Please **do not** use the car entry ramp to arrive or leave nursery due to a blind spot as cars turn in from the road – we have had a few complaints from concerned vehicle owners about the safety of children when driving into the car park.

Please can we also ask that parents DO NOT park in the thoroughfare directly outside nursery to avoid the carpark becoming congested.

### Training Day

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

This training day will focus on preparing nursery for the children's return, home visits for new starters, a full staff meeting and safeguarding training with M.R. safety.

Nursery will be closed from **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022** We look forward to welcoming children back on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Our term and upcoming training days can be found [HERE](#)



*December 2021 Newsletter*