

Westhill Primary School Nursery Weekly Newsletter

23rd of February 2024



LUNCHTIME COLLECTION (1PM)

Please can we ask that if you are collecting your child at 1pm you do not arrive earlier than 12.45pm. Serving lunch in the nursery takes some time and all staff are busy with the children at then. There are no spare staff to answer the door before 12.45pm which makes it difficult for us to supervise the children and answer the door.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

TESCO TOKENS

Fantastic news!!! We heard earlier this week that we have been successful in securing the largest amount of grant available, £1,500!! Thank you so much to all our families and friends who took the time to post some tokens for us. 😊

There is still some paperwork to complete and conditions to meet before we receive the funds, but we are very excited. As our outdoor area is fairly well established now, we hope to do some work on our courtyard area, transforming it into a sensory space where the children can rest and relax in a calming environment. More details to follow...

STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS – STILL LOTS OF AVAILABILITY!!

We are delighted to offer our very popular Stay and Play sessions. These will run right through to Friday the 28th of June 24'. The sessions will run every day and you can choose a morning session, 10am to 12pm, or an afternoon session, 1pm to 3pm, depending on what best suits you.

These sessions are offered to all our families, and we welcome (only one adult per family at a time but you are welcome to book more than one session if another family

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member wishes to join us) Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles and any other family members over the age of 16.

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate siblings during these visits.

During these sessions you will get a taster of what your child gets up to at nursery and how our routines run. You will be on the floor with your child (who will enjoy giving you a tour) and their peers. At the end of your session, we ask for you to complete a short feedback form to support us to improve and evaluate our practice.

If you would like to attend a session, please pop an email to Mrs Borthwick fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk stating the day and either morning or afternoon session you wish to join. We have a maximum of 2 adults/families per session.

WELLIES AND SPARE SOCKS

Can we ask that all children have a pair of wellies which can stay at nursery please? We are short of quite a few pairs which may have gone home by accident on wet or snowy days and not been returned. If you are not sure if you have wellies here, please ask a member of staff to check.

Please can we also ask for at least 2 pairs of socks in your child's bags for changing. We find that the activities offered in the nursery often end up with wet feet so 2 pairs would be very helpful. If you have any spare socks you could donate that would be great as we have no stock of our own left.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

STAFF LEADERSHIP AREAS

Mrs Lewis – Science and technology (focus on experiments)

This is an area that we have struggled to cover historically and one that I felt I could make a real impact in. I love experimenting and its great to encourage the children's curiosity and inquiry this way.

So far we have tried a rainbow tissue experiment, a dancing lentil experiment and creating lava and volcanoes experiment. I have also created a potion station where the children can experiment independently with different herbs, spices, pulses and cocoa powder, encouraging their senses to be stimulated. I have loved seeing the children's reactions to these experiments, even when they have not quite gone to plan. The children coped very well with this, one of them even telling me 'it's ok Mrs Lewis, we can try again'!

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This area is not just restricted to the potion station, and you can find us trying new experiments all over the nursery. I have also collaborated with some of the other staff and built links to their leadership areas.

Look what fun we have been having!



DONATIONS

We were wondering if any of our bi, or indeed tri-lingual families would have any books written in their mother tongue that you would be happy for us to have. These would make a great addition to our story/reading area and support us to share some of the different languages spoken by our families.

Also, the children are loving the heeled shoes which have been donated but there is room for more. If anyone has some not too high, 'clippy cloppy' shoes they would be willing to part with, the nursery children would be very grateful! 😊

Thank you 😊

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent, please either call the nursery 01224 472900 ext 3 (will take you right through to speak to a member of the nursery staff) or email fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

DO NOT call or email the school office as we do not have access to the answer machine or school mailbox so will not get your message.

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Council and Care Inspectorate guidance stipulates that we must know where every child is who is expected to be in nursery. If we do not receive a call or email, then we will work through your emergency contacts list. Policy states that if we do not get an answer then we would contact Social Work and the Police.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We have new online forms this year to be completed if your child has any dietary requirements, for example, allergies, intolerances, or lifestyle choices. Please follow the link below if your child requires a special diet. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/hDnuMFnpjx>

SPARE CLOTHES

We have a stock of spare clothes in the nursery in case the children require anything, but we are currently running low on trousers. If you have any spare or old leggings or tracksuit bottoms (age 3/4/5yrs) at home going spare, please could we have them as donations? Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is located to the left of the main nursery door at the ramp. You are welcome to come and have a look at any time if you have lost any items.

WESTHILL NURSERY FACEBOOK PAGE

Keep up to date with the latest info, key dates (Parent Council meetings, pyjama day and the likes!) and get to know other parents and carers. All are welcome, it's a great way to keep in touch and arrange playdates or track down muddled-up jumpers, and we can also share any queries or concerns with the PTA team. Search Westhill Nursery on Facebook to join, or click here:

www.facebook.com/groups/westhillnursery.

PARENT COUNCIL

If you would like to get in touch with Westhill Primary School Parent Council, please use the email below.

wp.parentcouncil@googlemail.com

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NURSERY UNIFORM

If you would like to order nursery uniform, please follow the link bellow.

<https://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com/badged-school-uniform/r-w/w/westhill-nursery>

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather when they arrive at nursery. If they come to nursery in wellies, then please provide a pair of indoor shoes to change into as wellies are not the comfiest for the children to wear all day. Please ensure they have plenty of warm clothes to go with their jackets, for example, hats, gloves, and scarves. Please also remember to **NAME ALL** items as this will make it much easier for us to find should they get lost.

NURSERY DAYS

Westhill Nursery is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 50 weeks of the year. The nursery will close to the children on in-service days, occasional days and public holidays as well as for 2 weeks at Christmas. We offer two sessions a day morning session 8am to 1pm and afternoon session 1pm to 6pm.

For your convenience and to offer you flexibility, we have a soft start and finish at either end of the sessions as follows:

Morning session – drop off between 8am and 9am

1pm pick up – collect between 12.45 and 1pm (please no later than 1pm as we have more children arriving for the afternoon session)

1pm drop off – drop off from 1 to 1.15pm

All children in afternoon/full day sessions – pick up from 3.15pm to 5.55pm

Each day you arrive with your child you will be asked who is collecting them and at what time. If this changes during the session, PLEASE DO get in touch with us and let us know by calling 01224 472900 and pressing for ext 3 which will take you right through to speak to a member of the nursery team.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 28th March
GOOD FRIDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – **nursery closed to all**
- Monday 1st to Friday 12th April
EASTER HOLIDAYS – **only all year children attend.**

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- Monday 6th May
MAY DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY – no children attend.
- Monday 8th July to Friday 9th August
SUMMER HOLIDAYS – only all year children attend.
(week of 12th to 16th Aug Staff only, no children)
- Monday 19th August
IN-SERVICE DAY – no children attend
- Tuesday 20th August
NEW TERM BEGINS

Mrs Fiona Borthwick and the nursery staff. 😊

fiona.borthwick@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

01224 472900 (ext 3)