

# Loatlands Nursery News

Terms 3 & 4 Newsletter

[www.loatlandsprimary.net](http://www.loatlandsprimary.net)

**Loatlands**  
Primary School



## **Introduction**

Welcome back to all our families, we hope you had a lovely Christmas break. A very special, warm welcome to our new children and families too. Starting nursery is an exciting time and we want your experience to be enjoyable. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your child's key person or myself, Mrs Cumberpatch at anytime.

## **Garden Project**

We have recently extended the nursery garden so that we now have even more space for learning. The staff will be working with the children this term to develop our garden into an even more exciting place to play and explore. Some of the areas we have planned are; a giant sandpit; a water area; a fire circle; a stage with music area; a bike track; a craft area; mini-beast area and much, much more! We will be keeping you informed of progress via our weekly newsletter and a display in the nursery entrance. If you have any skills that you think could help us or are just keen to help, please let Mrs Cumberpatch know. We would like to say a big thank you to Esmée's dad and Chloe's dad for the donation of large reels and to Isabella's family for the paving slabs; these will really help us get started with our garden makeover.

## **Allotment**

We are fortunate to have received a donation for gardening. We will be using the money to develop a mini allotment in the yard at the front of nursery. The children will have the opportunity to grow fruits and vegetables from seed; we will nurture, harvest and taste them. Spring term will see lots of opportunity for gardening and we cannot wait! If you or a Grandparent are interested in helping please let Mrs Cumberpatch know.

## **Speaking and Listening Skills**

Another big focus this term will be to develop communication skills. These skills underpin all learning and are so important in laying the foundations of reading and writing. During, our key group time we will be playing lots of games to develop listening and attention skills as well as taking turns in conversations. We will be sharing discussions around various topics to develop vocabulary and to develop understanding too.

You can help your child at home by singing nursery rhymes and sharing stories with them every day. We have developed a set of ten core rhymes (see attached) which we will be singing with the children. Once the children can sing these by heart, we will introduce a song a fortnight, which we will share with you at Sing Along and in the weekly newsletter. If you have any concerns about your child's speech, please speak to a member of staff.

### Sing Along/Story Time

Sing Along begins again on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 11.20am and 3.20pm. Until February Half Term, we will be trialling a slightly different arrangement whereby one week we will have Sing Along and the following week we will break off into smaller groups to have a story time, same times. We hope you will enjoy both sessions and we will welcome any feedback.

### Lending Library

Our library will be officially opening on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February with a special Stay and Play, the children will be invited to come to Nursery in their pyjamas for a special Bedtime Story event. Parents and siblings will then be invited to join in the fun at 10.30am and 2.30pm, we hope you can make it. Further details will be given out nearer the time. The library will be situated in the large entrance area to Nursery. You will be welcome to borrow one book at a time and swap it as often as you wish.

### Developing Self-Help Skills

Independence skills help raise a child's self-esteem and therefore lead to happy children. We are going to start a weekly challenge for your child to practise at home, please see our large display board in the entrance to nursery and the weekly newsletter for more details. If your child masters a new skill or puts in lots of effort whilst practising, please send us a photo to [ncumberpatch@loatlandsprimary.net](mailto:ncumberpatch@loatlandsprimary.net) as we would love to celebrate it in nursery too.

### What to Wear

1. Play Clothes: In order for your child to have lots of fun whilst they are learning at nursery, play clothes are essential as they will get messy!
2. Warm Coat: Please note we go out in all weathers so a named warm coat is essential.
3. To help your child's growing independence and enable them to change into wellies for outdoor play more easily, **Velcro shoes are essential, please note buckles and laces are not recommended for nursery.**

### Collecting Children from Nursery

A polite reminder that nursery finishes at 11.40am (doors will be open from 11.30am) and 3.40pm (doors will be open from 3.30pm). It is really important that children are collected on time as it can be very upsetting for a young child that is left waiting at the end of the session. We appreciate that occasionally Parents will get held up due to unforeseen circumstances and request that you telephone nursery so that we can ensure your child knows that someone is on their way.

### Safety

Ensuring the safety of all our children is our priority; please can parents ensure that if they hook the entrance door open to bring a buggy into the building that they unhook it behind them. We would also request that from now on buggies are left in the large entrance area whilst you bring your children into nursery. We hope this will aid the congestion in the cloakroom area, thank you to the parents that already do this.

## **Staffing**

We are very pleased to inform you that Mrs Read will now be full time until the end of the school year and Mrs James, who works in Reception in main school, will be working with us on a Thursday and Friday morning.

## **September Places**

Do you have any friends with children that will turn three by August 31<sup>st</sup>? If they would like to register for Nursery in September please ask them to come to the main school office with their child's birth certificate, places are filling up fast!

## **Quick Reminders**

**Mobile Phones** - Please can we remind you for safeguarding reasons not to use mobile phones (texting, talking or taking photographs) whilst you are on the nursery premises.

**Medication** – Please ensure any medication is handed to a member of staff and not left in your child's bag.

**Profiles** – Please can we have your children's special books back as soon as possible, thank you.

The Nursery Team and I look forward to working with you this term  
Mrs Nicola Cumberpatch  
Nursery Phase Leader