

# St James's Nursery News



## January 2024

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back to Nursery!

We hope everyone had a relaxing Christmas break and is now looking forward to an exciting new term at St James's. There are many wonderful learning opportunities planned for this month, including visits from 'World of Owls' and Jo Jingles, as well as The Big Bedtime Read'.

As the weather is still very cold please ensure your child brings a coat to Nursery every day. You can help your child at home by helping them practice zipping or buttoning up their own coats.

## January Learning Focus



**Theme:** It's Winter Time Again!

**Colours:** Blue (Dark/Light) and White

**Shape:** Rectangle & Shapes of the Moon (crescent, full-moon, half-moon etc.)

This month we will talk about winter weather, keeping warm and life in the polar lands.

Information books and mark making materials will be placed around the room to create opportunities for recording and researching. Children will continue to develop awareness that symbols, pictures and print convey meaning.

In association with winter themes, children will experiment with ice to explore the scientific concepts of freezing and melting. We will develop an awareness of animals and people that live in colder climates. Children will become aware of hibernation and how animals survive in cold weather. Through our own experiences we will find out how to keep safe and warm in winter.

## Dates For Your Diary



### JANUARY

- **Tuesday 9th January:** Nursery and Primary 1 admission portal **opens at 12 noon**
- **Wednesday 17th January:** World of Owls visit
- **Thursday 25th January:** Jo Jingles
- **Thursday 25th January:** Big Bedtime Read Parent Event 12:30 - 1:30pm
- **Friday 26th January:** Nursery and Primary 1 admission portal **closes at 12 noon**
- **Friday 26th January:** January Birthday Party
- **Friday 26th January:** Grandparents Stay and Play

### FEBRUARY

- **Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February:** Midterm Break School is closed to children.

## REMINDER: Nursery and Primary 1 Admissions Process

A graphic showing a smartphone displaying the 'eaconnect' logo and the text 'Applying for a Primary school place?'. To the right of the phone is a list of key dates for the admissions process, with a QR code and a speech bubble icon below it.

**Key Dates**  
September 2024 to June 2025 school year

- 12 December 2023**  
Admissions Criteria published
- 9 January 2024**  
Applications open at 12noon
- 26 January 2024**  
Applications close at 12noon

Scan here for more information

www.eaconnect.org.uk

ea Education Authority

The Admissions Criteria for our Nursery Unit and Year 1 was published by the Education Authority on Tuesday 12th December 2023.

The Education Authority Admissions Portal opens at **12 noon on Tuesday 9th January 2024 and closes at 12 noon on Friday 26th January 2024.**

The admissions process is completed by parents/guardians online using the portal. Please ensure that you refer to our admissions criteria when making your application. If you have any difficulties with your application, please contact Mrs Brown in the school office.

## The Big Bedtime Read



We are delighted to be taking part in the 'Big Bedtime Read' project as part of the Department of Education's '*Getting Ready to Learn*' scheme for Nursery pupils.

The main focus of the 'Getting Ready to Learn' project is to develop and support parents' awareness of the importance of reading to children, to encourage regular reading to children and to emphasise reading as part of good bedtime routines.

To begin the programme, **we invite parents to come into school for an information session from 12.30pm - 1.30pm on Thursday 25th January 2024.**

The information session will offer parents a chance to learn more about the Big Bedtime Read programme, how it works and what is entailed.

On this day children can bring their favourite teddy bear if they wish. They will get to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and a story read to them by Nursery staff.

WE WANT OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TO

THRIVE

RATHCOOLE & MONKSTOWN

Our partnership with THRiVE aims to promote aspiration, achievement, wellbeing and collaboration.

This month in Nursery we would like to celebrate how:

**We can learn.**

Our Nursery children are learning all about life in winter, not only locally but globally, in places where it is winter all the time.

We are also exploring concepts of measure, number and pattern.

**We can be healthy and well.**

The children are continuing to learn about how we can stay warm, healthy and well throughout the winter season.

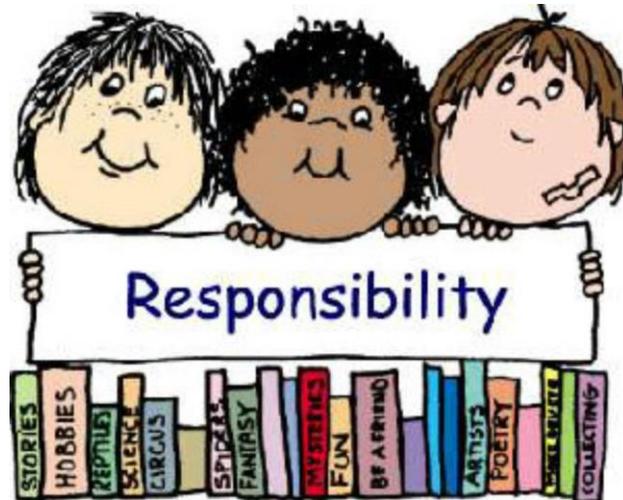
Thanks to our new provision we aim to incorporate yoga and movement sessions into our timetable.

**We can be connected.**

This month we are looking forward to continue to connect with our families through the Big Bedtime Read event and Grandparents Day.

Please remember to have a look at our Community Notice board. If you belong to any local groups or organisations, and would like to contribute to our board please leave your promotion in the office with Mrs Brown.

## St James's PS & NU Value of the Month



In St James's Primary School and Nursery Unit we focus on a different value every month. This month we are focusing on responsibility. At the end of the month one child from each class will be awarded a special certificate for showing responsibility.

You may want to talk with your child about what responsibility and being responsible is.

Responsibility in Nursery can be ... taking care of our own and school property.

## Nursery Fund



Thank you for your continued support towards our Nursery fund. Your contribution towards our Nursery Fund goes a long way towards enhancing the experiences and opportunities we provide for our Nursery children.

This term your contribution has meant that we have been able to provide:

- Daily snack
- Our monthly birthday cupcakes & birthday bubbles
- Replenishable resources for play such as playdough etc.
- Monthly Jo Jingles sessions
- World of Owls visit
- Mr Hullabaloo Show
- We hope to invest in some new thematic resources

We hope you are able to continue to support our Nursery Fund.

## January Songs, Poems and Rhymes

### Five Little Snowmen

Five little snowmen ready to play,  
Ready to play, ready to play,  
Out came the sun to warm up the day,  
One little snowman melted away!

4 little snowmen ready to play,  
Ready to play, ready to play,  
Out came the sun to warm up the day,  
One little snowman melted away!

Three little snowmen ready to play,  
Ready to play, ready to play,  
Out came the sun to warm up the day,  
One little snowman melted away!

Two little snowmen ready to play,  
Ready to play, ready to play,  
Out came the sun to warm up the day,  
One little snowman melted away!

One little snowman ready to play,  
Ready to play, ready to play,  
Out came the sun to warm up the day,  
One little snowman melted away!



### **I'm a Little Penguin**

(to the tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

I'm a little penguin,

Black and white.

Short and wobbly,

An adorable sight.

I can't fly at all,

but I love to swim.

So I'll waddle to the water

And dive right in!



### **Little snowflakes**

(To tune of Frere Jacques)

Little snowflakes, little snowflakes

Twirling round, twirling round.

See them gently falling, see them gently falling,

On the ground, on the ground.

Let's make snowballs, let's make snowballs,

Small and round, small and round.

Throw them at each other, throw them at each other,

Laugh out loud, laugh out loud!

Build a snowman, build a snowman,

Large and tall, large and tall.

Make a head and body, make a head and body.

Big and small, big and small.

