

# Glendermott Nursery Unit Newsletter

May 2017

## Learning

Our topic will be 'In the Garden'. This learning will include exploring the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in detail and also finding out about mini-beasts.

Some of the learning opportunities will include:

- exploring stories in detail by looking at sequencing main parts, discussing characters and making predictions
- opportunities to discuss emotions and behaviours by reading stories such as 'The Bad Tempered Ladybird', 'The Very Greedy Bee', 'The Very Busy Spider', 'The Very Ugly Bug', 'The Very Friendly Firefly' etc
- answering open ended questions and developing thinking skills
- lots and lots of counting and recognising numbers
- recognising and sharing emotions in different contexts
- ordering and sequencing for size and using language associated with size
- identifying patterns and copying patterns (look for patterns in magazines or at home -wallpaper, socks, duvets, clothes etc)
- caring for living things-plants and animals
- producing models using junk materials
- talking about similarities and differences in objects
- learning about opposites
- making observations about the environment/materials-wood/plastic/glass etc

As with all topics the learning is endless and the children have so many great ideas of their own to share with us too.

## Colour

This month's colours are blue and white. If you have any items at home your child can bring them in for the colour display table. Please help your child at home by looking for colours and talking to them about their environment.

## Shape

It's all about solid shapes this month. The children will be building with cubes and cuboids, cones and cylinders. This is something they enjoy doing already. We will also create models using junk art materials.

**Happy Birthday!**  
Mia, Callum and  
Hannah

## Upcoming Events

- **Trip to Tropical World Letterkenny- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May** more information will follow.
- **Nursery is closed bank holiday Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Save the Date- Nursery Sport's Day- scheduled to take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 12.45pm in the main school playground.**

## Star of the Week

*This month we will be starting Star of the Week. Every Friday some children will be given a certificate this could be for*

- *Good Listening*
- *Helping each other*
- *Sharing*
- *Saying kind words*
- *Good manners the list is endless!!!*

## Learning News

Throughout the year the nursery staff have been observing learning and making assessments on the progress each child is making in the curriculum areas. At this time of the year I will begin to write transition reports for each child which will be shared with the P1 teacher and with you as parents. Children who are returning to nursery next year will receive a progress and development report. We recognise that children develop at different rates and have strengths in different areas to perhaps their peers. Most children will also have areas for development and will need more time to practise these skills and concepts in order to be fully competent. Some of the general areas I feel that could be reinforced at home over the next few months are:

- Reinforcing appropriate and acceptable behaviour in new and familiar environments
- Practising good hygiene such as washing hands without reminders
- Managing own dressing and undressing (shoes in particular)
- Using small tools such as scissors
- Having fun using pencils and markers etc
- Using cutlery daily/reinforce good table manners
- Taking turns when talking and playing/attention and listening
- Counting and recognising some numbers such as their age

If you have any concerns about your child's progress please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

## Physical Development

Now is also a good time to encourage your child to practise skills such as hopping, balancing on one foot, kicking a football, cycling, throwing, catching and running around with good co-ordination and control. These are skills that as parents we developed quite naturally through playing outdoors with our friends. However, we cannot take it for granted that young children will pick these skills up without practising them, especially in the climate of technology we live in today. The children will use these skills during Sports Day in June.