

Last week the children did really well. Although a few started to tire towards the end of the week I can honestly say that we were thrilled with how settled and calm the children were. They have shown a great level of independence and have started sharing their thoughts and interests with us giving us ideas from which to build teaching and learning.

The children were very good at picking up routines. They have been great about washing and sanitising hands. We would ordinarily talk about why we wash our hands before we eat, why we blow our noses and so on at the start of term. Obviously, handwashing has been given even more prominence over the last couple of years. We are trying not to let the children feel too anxious about germs and trying to help them pick up messages in a fun way. We have supported government initiatives and the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' motto was introduced into school and last year. We also introduce *The Hygiene Heroes*. This is an engaging resource we have used for several years in Nursery to teach the children about good hygiene. This resource, designed by Sanofi Pasteur MSD with the help of Healthcare and Early Years professionals, helps encourage good hygiene behaviour in the school/nursery and home setting. The main four principles are: 1. *Wash your hands when they are dirty, after using the toilet and before eating.* 2. *Do not cough or sneeze into your hands – use a disposable tissue or the crook of your elbow or sleeve.* 3. *Dispose of tissues quickly into a bin - do not keep and reuse.* 4. *Keep fingers away from the mouth, nose, and eye area as much as possible.* We will teach the children the key messages and reinforcement of these messages will be ongoing. Children may mention the Hygiene Heroes; these include *Captain Handwash*, *Mr Clean Up*, *T-Zone*, *Sleevester*, *Trisha Tissue*, and *Mr Bin*, whose special power is the ability to eat lots of germ tissues without getting ill!

We had fun getting to know each other last week and the children are starting to make new friends and learn each other's names. This week we will be thinking more about names. The children will be learning more of the other children's names and recognising their own names in writing. One of the ways children learn to recognise their own and each other's names at nursery is finding their name as they come into nursery. Many of the children are confident at recognising their names and some are building confidence. If your child does not confidently recognise their name yet, try to draw attention to their name on things and help them focus particularly on the first letter and what it looks like. When you write the children's names for them please use a capital letter only at the start and lower case for the rest of the name, so this becomes familiar to them. As we learn more about letters, we talk about how their name is special, so it has a capital at the start.

The children should now be able to tell you if they are a Green Turtle or a Blue Fish. It is useful to put the children into these smaller groups for certain activities. The groups have an adult linked to them – Miss McIlroy is with the Blue Fish and Mrs Green with the Green Turtles. If your child is unsure, please ask.

Thank you for all the wellies that have come in. The children are at liberty to use the indoor and outdoor classrooms as one, going inside and outside as they wish. However, they do need to change their shoes so they can access all areas of the garden without getting their shoes wet or muddy. They have been working really hard to get their shoes on and off themselves. All the shoes that have been bought to enable independence are fantastic, thank you. The children have been brilliantly independent, and we have been really impressed. If your child is not yet able to get their shoes on, just keep encouraging them and giving helpful tips. On the last page is 'I can put on my shoes!' which may be useful. They'll get there!

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy



## Birthdays



In the coming weeks we will start to learn about how old we are and when our birthdays are. You may want to start to talk about this with your child, so they are more confident to contribute to activities. As we move through the year, we will obviously start to celebrate the children's birthdays. Parents who have older children who have been through nursery will remember as we are a healthy school some parents would bring in a healthy fruit snack to share, something we do not have often such as strawberries or their child's favourite fruit to celebrate. However, at the moment while we are trying to be covid secure we cannot do this. However, for parents who feel they would like to donate something to mark the occasion it has also become popular in school to donate a book to the class, to share and enjoy. The book is labelled with a special birthday inscription for the child. We also mark the occasion by singing, giving birthday stickers, and having a dip in the 'Birthday Box' for a small gift.

## Forest school

On Thursday afternoon Mrs Mankalow and Mrs Collect, our Forest school leaders came to meet the Green Turtles and carry out an activity with them in the Nursery Garden. Next Thursday they will do the same with the Blue Fish group. The following week Thursday September 23<sup>rd</sup> Green Turtles will have their first session in the Nature Trail.

Hopefully you will have received the letters regarding Forest schools. The letter mentioned dates for the groups being available on Google classroom, however the Nursery children are not yet set up for this, so I include the dates here. Also, apologies to the morning children, we cannot currently offer Forest school to morning children, so the parent mail for a contribution will be removed.

The children will carry out their session every other Thursday afternoon. On the day of your child's Forest School session, they will need to come to school wearing an old long-sleeved top, jumper, trousers (no denim) and a warm coat (that can get muddy). They will remove school shoes and put on their wellies that are already in school. If possible, please provide waterproof trousers and jacket for your child to put on over their clothes as this is the easiest way to keep them both dry and warm. If you do not have any waterproofs, please send a change of clothes into school in a named bag for your child to change into as they will be getting wet and muddy in the woods.

Here are the dates: -

Thursday 23 September	Green Turtles
Thursday 30 September	Blue Fish
Thursday 7 October	Green Turtles
Thursday 14 October	Blue Fish
Thursday 21 October	Green Turtles
Half Term	
Thursday 4 November	Blue Fish
Thursday 11 November	Green Turtles
Thursday 18 November	Blue Fish
Thursday 25 November	Green Turtles
Thursday 2 December	Blue Fish
Thursday 9 December	Green Turtles
Thursday 15 December	Blue Fish



## Nursery places for Part-time children



If your child is currently part-time at nursery and you would like them to become full-time in the future, please could you let us know by this Friday. We would like our current children to be able to access full-time provision if they would like to. However, next week we will be sending offers to children who are on the waiting list for January. Once these offers are accepted, we will be full and unable to offer any more sessions.

Thank you

## I can put on my shoes!



Open the straps



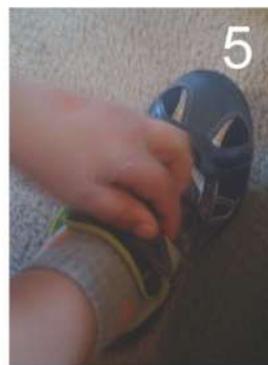
Lift the tongue



Put your toes in



Pull out the back



Pull hard and close  
the straps