

The children have had another great week. We have noticed they have been doing some very good listening, especially to stories and have been very good at picking up routines. They have also been great about washing their hands. We are trying to help children learn about germs and pick up messages in a fun way. We introduced **The Hygiene Heroes** last week. 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, Sleevevester, Trisha Tissue*, and *Mr Bin*, whose special power is the ability to eat lots of germy tissues without getting ill!

We had fun getting to know each other better last week and the children are starting to make new friends and learn each other's names. This week we will continue to think 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.

On the subject of names, please ensure all children's **belongings** are clearly marked with their name, including coats, boots, shoes, jumpers, lunchboxes, pots, water bottles to help us match the children and belongings correctly, thanks. Please make sure **water bottles** have only water in them, but feel free to add some juice or squash to their lunchboxes to have with lunch.

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, sandy or muddy. We haven't been insisting on wellies yet, as not all children have them, but from this week we will be encouraging the children to put them on. One of their development targets is learning to get their shoes on and off themselves if they can't already. Shoes that enable independence are fantastic, thank you. Please avoid laces as children cannot tie laces until they are quite a bit older, and it prevents them being able to do their shoes for themselves. If your child is not yet able to get their shoes on, just keep encouraging them and giving helpful tips. Included below is 'I can put on my shoes!' which may be useful. They'll get there!

Best wishes  
Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy





## Birthdays

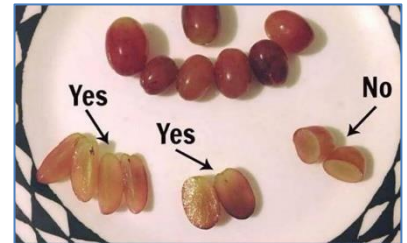


In the coming weeks we will start to learn about how old we are and when our birthdays are. You may want to start to talk about this with your child, so they are more confident to contribute to activities. As we move through the year, we will obviously start to celebrate the children's birthdays. Parents who have older children who have been through nursery will remember as we are a healthy school some parents 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. Other parents who feel they would like to donate something to mark the occasion have donated a book to the class, to share and enjoy. The book is labelled with a special birthday inscription for the child. Please do not feel either of these are necessary. We also mark the occasion by singing, giving birthday stickers, and having a dip in the 'Birthday Box' for a small gift.

## Safety Notice

Please be aware that we are a **nut free** school and we do have children in the class with nut allergies. Please ensure that children's lunchboxes are completely nut free including any bars, thank you for help with this.

Grapes and cherry tomatoes are the third most common cause of death among under-fives who die in food-related choking incidents. Because of their softness and shape, whole grapes, small cherry tomatoes or similar sized fruit can block the 'small, tight' airway of a young child. Doctors recommend that children are served 'long and thin' batons of food. Thank you for help with this.



## I can put on my shoes!



Open the straps



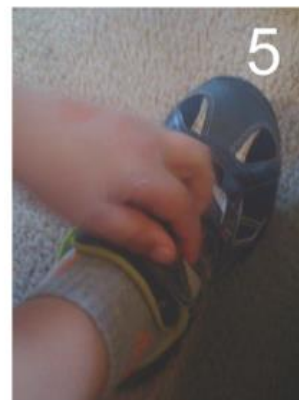
Lift the tongue



Put your toes in



Pull out the back



Pull hard and close the straps