**Nursery Newsletter January 2016**

Dear parents,

Welcome back to the nursery after the Christmas holidays. I hope everyone had an enjoyable break. I will be your child’s nursery teacher until the end of the school year. I am looking forward to getting to know your child and working closely with you in order to help your child flourish in all areas of their development. May I take this opportunity to congratulate both Mrs Byrne and Miss Hayes on the birth of their baby girls over the Christmas holidays. We wish them well and hope to see them in the Nursery with their baby girls in the near future.

**Reminders**

The closing date for applications for our Nursery and Primary One is **Wednesday 13th January at 12 noon.** All forms should be returned to the school secretary before this date.

Please note that Nursery does not start until 9.05am and no child should be in the Nursery before this time. All dinner money should be paid directly to the school’s office and afterschool money should be paid directly to Mrs McKinley.

Snack money for the month of January is now due. I would appreciate it if you could put the money in an envelope with your child’s name on it and label it Snack Money.

**Topic**

Our topics for the month of January are **winter** and **night/day**. We will be observing seasonal changes and naming the types of weather associated with winter. The children will also be talking about their daily routine, this will help develop their sequencing skills. We will be talking about jobs that people do at night and animals that only come out at night.

Our colour this month is white, please help your child identify white objects in the home. We will be encouraging the children to experiment mixing other colours with white to create different shades. The Nursery Rhymes in focus this month are Wee Willie Winkie, I see the Moon, Queen of Hearts and Old Mother Hubbard.

**Routines**

* The children are very independent in the Nursery. Please teach your child how to put on their coat and zip it up. If your child is finding it difficult to zip up their coat, try to attach a key ring to the zip of the coat as this will help them to zip it up independently.
* We will be playing outside everyday. Please send in a warm coat and label all items of clothing with your child’s name.
* The children are becoming more independent during meal times (using their knife and fork to eat, scraping their plates and selecting their own desert). During this term we will continue to foster their independence by getting the children to set their own place setting for dinner, helping to prepare their snack and pouring their own milk/water. You can encourage this at home by allowing your child to butter their own toast/bread, asking them to set the table for mealtimes, asking them to help you clear the table after mealtimes.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Regards,

Julie Smyth