



Please follow us on Twitter for regular nursery updates: @langaStNursery

You can also contact us on the nursery email address. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021

# Langa Street Nursery

## Newsletter August 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

The new nursery year starts on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August. The team are very pleased to welcome all of our children back and you will find in this letter some updates of interest – please read it carefully.

Nursery is closed for in-service days (staff training) on Thursday and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August. The staff will be reviewing our nursery vision and aims, agreeing our improvement plan, receiving Child Protection and Fire Safety training updates, discussing approaches to supporting and tracking children's literacy and receiving Childsmile training so that we can restart toothbrushing for children.

**For the first week of term, 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> August, our opening hours will be 8.00am-4.00pm**, to enable a good resettling for the children during their return, and to enable the staff team including new staff to work together throughout the day. **From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August, we will start our full opening hours of 8.00am-5.45pm**, with a full staff shift working pattern.

You will have received a confirmation letter (back in May) of your child's days and hours for this year – if you are not sure, please contact us to find out. Our standard session times are morning 8.00-12.45pm morning and 1.00-5.45pm afternoon. Please don't be late for the pickup times as this does cause upset to children and is also difficult for staff who have other duties once children are collected.

We will be offering lunches to many more children due to our implementation of 1140 hours entitlement; in the Rainbow (3-5s) room, there will be an 11.45am lunch sitting for children attending mornings and a 12.30pm lunch sitting for children attending full days. A healthy "High Tea" will be served to children attending for afternoons, at around 4.15pm. It is my hope that during this year we will be able to make this a hot meal. The children in the Sunflower (2-3s) room will have their lunch at 11.30am. Please note that the High Tea is a small healthy meal but children will still require some type of meal or snack when they go home.

Our arrangements for dropping off and collecting children are changing. We are still restricted from parents routinely entering the building, although hopefully this will change soon. **From 16<sup>th</sup> August, I ask that all parents drop off and collect children at the main nursery front door.** You will need to press the door bell to alert a member of staff that you are there. **We also ask that you continue to wear a face covering and maintain physical distancing from other adults.** We are starting to re-use the cloakrooms again for jackets and shoes (in the Rainbow room) which allows for a much better space for play and learning. Please be aware that drop off and collection at the door will still take some time and you may need to wait for children to get ready, change shoes etc – **please be patient.** It may at times be easier for parents in the Rainbow to collect children from out in the garden, and we will let you know on the day if this happens. These arrangements are all under constant review so I would be willing to make changes if problems do arise.

There are several **staff changes this session.** As previously advised, Emma Kerr has now been in post as Team Leader since the end of June. Lisa McCormick, Chloe Sweeney and Jessica Woods have all moved on to other nurseries and Roberta Anderson has retired. Amy Graham is a new member of our team working up in the Rainbow room. We also expect details of other new members of staff very soon. Samantha Quale, our day cleaner is leaving to take up a Support for Learning Worker post – we all wish Sammy well! Sarah Hart has been appointed as a new Support for Learning Worker during the morning/lunch period and will initially be based down in the Sunflower room. May Sutton, Support for Learning worker, will move up to the Rainbow room which will support the children moving up there. We have new evening cleaners Julie McLintock and Liz Brand.

We have **updated the nursery handbook for parents** – you can read it online here: <https://bit.ly/3fsjQg> I would encourage all of our parents to read this to remind yourselves about day to day policies and it will answer many questions you may have. I have also developed a "Parents Agreement" which will be discussed with parents when children start nursery. It touches upon play-based learning, outdoors learning and risk in play, and gives some reminders for parents about communication and procedures, for example the importance of ensuring you always update us with your up to date telephone numbers and email addresses. **Please read the parents agreement** here: <https://bit.ly/2Vvh3QW> I would also like to remind parents not to use mobile phones on nursery premises including outdoors.



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Over the summer we have been work particularly hard on **refreshing the Rainbows room** upstairs. We no longer have 2 “bubbles” so we have created a richer environment, freshly painted, with areas for creating, building, engineering, investigating, reading and concocting. You will be able to see our virtual tour video and we will send you a link to this soon. We also have 2 new pet fish at nursery (children are still to decide on their names!) and we intend to keep other nursery animals this year too, to give opportunity for children to learn about caring for living things.

**Our Nursery Improvement Plan areas are:**

- 1 – Review our vision, aims and pedagogy – to develop and share an up-to-date approach to child development and learning
  - 2 – The Curriculum – Health and Wellbeing – encouraging all of our nursery community to grow towards being healthier and happier throughout life
  - 3 – Inclusion – to ensure that the best support for children’s progress and additional support needs is in place.
- We will be providing a more detailed letter and poster soon around our improvement aims.

We also hope to improve the involvement of parents and carers in tracking children’s progress as part of number 3 above. We intend for parents to have the chance to review children’s individual journals regularly (at least each term) and these will take the form of parent chats with keyworkers and the chance to take the journals home. Meetings may be either face to face or by telephone depending on the guidance at the time.

Our Twitter page continues @LangaStNursery (see it for regular updates about daily plans) and we intend to start a new parents facebook page – watch this space!

The **Cadder annual Gala takes place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September**. We are discussing plans for this with local groups and the primary school and hope that many of our families will be able to attend this community event. I should have more information to give you soon.

**Our Nursery and Toy fund weekly amount is now £2 per week.** Please contribute – this is essential to enable us to provide the range of parties, celebrations and additional resources that make nursery a richer experience. We also intend to organise a trip over the course of this year for which this fund will provide. Please keep an eye out for notices and information about our nursery-parent committee as we want to offer parents and carers a voice in the running of nursery and planning of events and fundraisers.

### **COVID and other safety reminders**



The latest Covid guidance has just been updated. There are still requirements for us have safety measures around cleaning, face coverings, ventilation and physical distancing, as well as restrictions on parents accessing the building. We no longer require to have “bubbles” of children though. The requirements of contacts to isolate is also changing. Up to date advice on isolating will be issued as and when required. **Please remember however that most important is that children should not come to nursery when unwell, particularly with a cough or temperature or sickness and diarrhoea.** You must tell us if your child is unwell and is not attending or if you need advice.

**Please do not use the car park, or car park gate with your child** – this is a significant risk to children due to cars moving in and out.

### **Other information**

If parents have any spare wellies that children have grown out of, we would be happy to receive them to use as spares for children here, or even as planters!

We also still require 2 litre plastic bottles to create out greenhouse this year. Coke and Irn Bru 2 litre bottles are suitable. Please give them a quick wash before handing them in. Our book of the month for the next month will be “Going on a Bear Hunt” and we will have home link materials to share to support children’s learning in this context. We haven’t yet chosen a rhyme of the month but be assured we will let you know when we have! Learning familiar rhymes is one of the best ways to promote children’s language development.

**Yours Sincerely - *Steve Rivers* – Head of Nursery**

### **Upcoming Dates for your Diary**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September** - Cadder Gala Day

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September** – Nursery Closed – September weekend

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October** – Nursery Closed – Inservice day

For our list of term dates for the year, see the page here: <https://bit.ly/3xrhucl> . If you ask by phoning or emailing we can print this off for you so that it can be kept in a handy place for you at home.