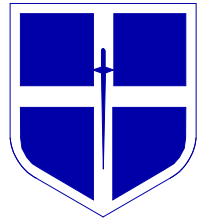




# St Paul's Church of England Nursery



## NURSERY Summer Term Letter April 2024

We are so excited to welcome our new children to St Paul's Nursery and for those of you returning after a fun and relaxing Easter break, we are so pleased and happy to see you back for, what we hope will be, a sunny and exciting term!



### Topics and Learning

This term our topics will include, exploring several life cycles, learning more about various minibeasts and exploring the season of summer and all that it brings.

In the first 2 weeks back, we will be looking at the life cycle of ducklings. Then we will move onto the life cycle of frogs and also use our pond to investigate this habitat. We will then finish off with a 2-week topic on the growing of seeds and plants, mainly focusing on sunflowers and beans. We will learn about these life cycles through hands-on experiences and also through stories, songs, games and carefully planned activities. We will be growing our own plants, caring for our vegetable patch, playing in a role play vets, using small world resources linked to frogs and ducks at the pond, exploring the songs *5 little ducks* and *5 little speckled frogs* and learning about the story *The Frog Prince* and *The Ugly Duckling*, as well as other key texts/ stories linked to the life cycles we are exploring.

We will be beginning this topic with a very exciting experience - watching the duckling life cycle first hand with the delivery of some duckling eggs. We will have the eggs/ducklings for 2 weeks and will hopefully get to see one hatching out if we are lucky but sometimes the action happens at night so we will stay hopeful for a live hatching!

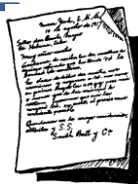
We will then be moving into our last half term with the children. We will be exploring several minibeasts and their habitats, looking at the life cycle of a butterfly first hand by watching caterpillars make their cocoons and go through metamorphosis, transforming into a butterfly that we will then release.

We will end the year with a topic linked to holidays, the beach, the ocean, its inhabitants and plastic pollution. It will be a very busy term indeed but we are very excited to be sharing all of these exciting experiences with the children, hopefully with a little sunshine along the way as well.

If you have any relevant books or toys that you would like to bring in that link with our topic we would love to read/share them with the children to enhance our learning.

### Absences

**If your child is away for any reason, please phone or email on the day to let us know the reason. We need this information for our records and register. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, please ensure they are away from Nursery for 48 hours after the last bout.**



### Lunches

**If your child is staying for lunch please make sure their food does not contain any nuts, or sesame seeds, pesto or hummus. We are a nut free school and this will help us to keep the children safe. Please also ensure to send in a water bottle every day.**



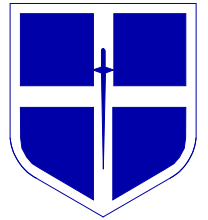
### Picking up reminder

**At the end of the day if someone else is picking up your child then we need to be informed via an email to the school office. If it is someone we have never met before then a password needs to be given to the person collecting and us so that we can be sure that they are the correct person.**





# St Paul's Church of England Nursery



## Classroom Dojo

This half term we would like to encourage all our parents to use Class Dojo to send us in photos and videos of their child's learning and achievements at home. The purpose of the app is to allow us to work in partnership with our families to guide and aid the children's learning at home and to send photos of the children's achievements whilst at Nursery. We would love for this to be a two-way process so that we can use the app within the Nursery to talk to the children about what they have been doing at home and to share achievements. We will send home weekly ideas of ways that you can support your child's learning. Photos and videos can then be sent in linking to the ideas shared. However, we value and appreciate all the experiences and learning that the children share at home so please send us in anything that you feel your child would love to share with us and their friends. We will send more information home soon to our new families about how to use Classroom Dojo. If you have any Easter holiday news please also send this to us so we can share it over the next few weeks.



## Bags and water bottles.

Please ensure that the children have their water bottle every day as the weather will hopefully be getting warmer this term. Also, please make sure your child has a fully stocked bag every day. We encourage lots of water play in the last term when blessed with the warmer weather and the children are likely to get wet. Please ensure that they also have spare socks and underwear.



## Mystery Reader and Super Story Sessions

**This term we will continue with the Mystery Reader sessions. We have found these sessions extremely exciting and enriching for our children and also parents alike.**

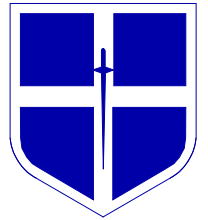
**We will be holding the Mystery Reader weekly because the children love getting excited every week to find out who it will be. We can be flexible with dates and times so if you would like to be a Mystery Reader please email, call or speak to a member of the team and we can find a date and time that suits. The children really do love it when it is their parent's turn so please let us know if you would like to be one of our Mystery Readers this half term. We would love to welcome any grandparents as well so please spread the word and let us know if you would like to come in to share a story with the children.**

**We will be doing some Super Story Sessions across the term as well. A letter with more information and dates and times will be sent soon about these.**





# St Paul's Church of England Nursery



## Key Vocabulary

This is some key vocabulary that we will be using this half term. We wanted to send this home so that parents can also reinforce the words at home when talking about our topics. This is to help children learn new words, so as much exposure to these as possible in context will help the children to learn and retain them. When you receive key vocabulary, try to drop these into everyday life where possible as the more your child hears this vocabulary the more they will retain it and begin to use it. Our first set of key vocabulary links to life cycles. All the staff at Nursery will be using these as much as possible during play to help the children learn them and use them for themselves.

*Cycle, transform, amphibian, leaping, croaking, habitat, change, frogspawn, froglet, pecking, hatching, duckling, paddling, webbed, roots, stem, leaves, petals, seeds.*



## Donations

We would be extremely grateful for any donations of paper, card, craft materials, glitter, tissues and pens or crayons.

We are also trying to update our Nursery environment to make it more natural and neutral so if you have any of the following that you are able to donate we would be very grateful.

- Small wicker baskets or trays.
- Larger wicker/ rattan baskets that could hold construction sets.
  - Wicker hampers.
- Metal items e.g. teapots, cups, jugs etc.
- Tins without ring pulls for our home corner.
- Toys linked to books e.g. Julia Donaldson characters.
  - Weighing scales
- Sensory timers, glitter tubes, bubbles, tubes etc.

## Wonder Woodlands

We will be continuing our Wonder Woodland sessions this term but these will be moving to a Thursday afternoon so please ensure that the children have their wellies, warm clothes and waterproof overalls for the session. We will be completing most of the session on Thursday afternoons outside in most weathers so please dress appropriately on these days. Also wearing thicker socks will help to keep the children's feet warm when they are wearing wellies if it is a cold day.

These sessions help the children to learn more about the world around them through hands-on exploration and natural materials. They promote curiosity, problem solving, independence, communication and language. We will also be introducing some pond dipping this term so hopefully we will have some exciting inhabitants to investigate.