**Newsletter January 2024**

**A message from the Acting Head Teacher**

*I think I start every message describing how busy it is here at Staghills. The time is flying by and we’re nearly half way through the year.*

*The other day I was showing a new parent around and I felt so proud. The range of learning opportunities for the children was immense from gymnastics, yoga and Forest School. The children were all engage in learning throughout every room and they were all soaking it up like little sponges. I am grateful to our staff for their commitment and enthusiasm.*

*Key workers are making appointments now for consultations. This is a discussion about if your child is meeting their age expected targets and what we are learning next. We really value your views and see this as a partnership.*

*I’m looking forward to the lighter days and hopefully less storms!*

*Joanne*

**End of Day Collection Arrangements**

Thank you for supporting us with this change of routine. It is really working for the children in nursery and they are more settled at the end of day. They are more involved in their play which is what we felt was needed.

**Attendance**

We have to report attendance to our Governors each term. We aim for children to have **94%** attendance and during this first term **55%** of our children achieved this target with **74%** getting above **90%.** Please get in touch with key workers if there is anything we can help with.

**Oral Hygiene**

There is a real concern about young children’s teeth and dental hygiene. We are going to have a visitor coming to nursery to talk to the older children about brushing their teeth. We have set up role play areas and other learning opportunities linked to healthy teeth.

Here are some guidelines from the NHS.

**Toothbrushing tips**

It's important to use a fluoride toothpaste, as this helps prevent and control tooth decay.

**Children aged up to 3 years**

* Start brushing your baby's teeth as soon as the first milk tooth breaks through (usually at around 6 months, but it can be earlier or later).
* Parents or carers should brush the teeth.
* Brush teeth twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
* Brush last thing at night before bed and on 1 other occasion.
* Use children's fluoride toothpaste containing no less than 1,000ppm of fluoride (check label) unless a dentist advises family toothpaste containing between 1,350ppm and 1,500ppm fluoride.
* Use only a smear of toothpaste.
* Make sure children don't eat or lick toothpaste from the tube.

**Children aged 3 to 6 years**

* Brush at least twice daily for about 2 minutes with fluoride toothpaste.
* Brush last thing at night before bed and at least on 1 other occasion.
* Parents or carers should brush the teeth.
* Use children's fluoride toothpaste containing no less than 1,000ppm of fluoride (check label) unless a dentist advises family toothpaste containing between 1,350ppm and 1,500ppm fluoride.
* Use only a pea-sized amount of toothpaste.
* Spit out after brushing and don't rinse – if you rinse, the fluoride won't work as well.

Alongside healthy brushing there is also a concern about the use of dummies with children and the effect this can have on their teeth and speech development. Here is some information from the NHS.

**Should I give my baby a dummy?**

It's fine to give your baby a dummy but avoid using them after 12 months of age. Using dummies after this can encourage an open bite, which is when teeth move to make space for the dummy. They may also affect your child's speech development.

Discourage your child from talking or making sounds with a dummy or their thumb in their mouth, and don't dip dummies in anything sweet, such as sugar or jam.

**School Jotter** 

All our newsletters will be sent over School Jotter in the following weeks. You can download School Jotter onto your phone. Go to the App Store (or alternative) and download the Jotter app. Search for Staghills Nursery School.

**Dates for your Diary**

12th -21st February 2024 HALF TERM

Please note that School re-opens on 2st February as 19th and 20th February are INSET days.

February 2024 – Parent Consultations – Key workers will be speaking to you all to book in for appointments to discuss children’s individual progress.

6th and 7Th March 2024 – Photos days. More information will be shared nearer the time.

28th March 2024 – Nursery Closes for all for Easter.