

# St Mary's Nursery News

**JANUARY 2017**

Dear Parents and Carers

Laura, Sandra and I would like to thank you all for the very generous gifts we received at Christmas time and hope you all enjoyed a fantastic festive holiday.

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to old and new friends joining us in St Mary's Nursery.

We are looking forward to new experiences and opportunities this new year, working together with you and your children in developing ideas for learning in the Nursery. At St Mary's we aim to keep your child's learning visible. Come and take a look at your child's Learning Journal and the Nursery Learning Tree. As always feel free to add comments, including things that happen out with nursery in the life of your child. This may be a picture drawn at home or a photograph of a family trip.



## Nursery Clothing and Footwear - in cold weather

Learning continues outside all year round! Wet cold weather is only a challenge if we don't have the right clothing. As we continue to offer free choice for indoor/outdoor play we are encouraging independence in dressing skills. We have limited space on coat pegs so can we ask that you pop any bags on the trolley to make it easier for your child to hang up his or her own coat. Please help us to support your child by making sure that their hats, scarves and gloves are easily accessible to them.

The easiest way we have found to do this is:

1. Allow them to take off their gloves and put them in their pocket.
2. Allow them to take off their coat then their hat and scarf and pop these items in their coat sleeves.
3. Encourage them to hang up their own coat.

By working together to encourage this there will be less items that get misplaced and your child can enjoy an active play experience in our garden.

## Loose parts

### Why Loose Parts?

There are many reasons why play spaces should include a multitude of loose parts, including:  
Loose parts can be used anyway children choose.  
Loose parts can be adapted and manipulated in many ways.

Loose parts encourage creativity and imagination.

Loose parts develop more skill and competence than most modern plastic toys.

Loose parts can be used in many different ways.

Loose parts can be used in combination with other materials to support imagination.

Loose parts encourage open ended learning.

Children choose loose parts over fancy toys.

Items needed include;

stumps, sand, gravel, twigs, wood, wooden balls, buckets, baskets, crates, boxes, logs, tyres, shells, buttons, glass beads, nuts and bolts, screws, various sizes of stones, corks, wooden pegs, various lengths and widths of tubing, and any other junk materials that you think we could make use of.

## Helpers



## IMPORTANT NOTES/DETAILS FOR YOUR DIARY

Term ends Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017	All resume Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017
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Please ask any member of the Nursery staff if you have any questions about your child's experiences at Nursery.