Welcome to all parents and carers!

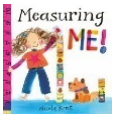
The first half of the Autumn term was busy welcoming all our families, new and old! We are so proud of how the children have settled into Nursery life and we are all really excited for the next half-term.



We have also welcomed our lovely new teacher – **Anna K**. She will be taking on Rosie M's who has decided that she loves being a mum so much she will not be returning to teachin the time-being. You will see Anna's friendly face around so please say hello! She is a very experienced teacher and has already made a great effort to get to know the children and families.



Sycamore 1. Class teacher **Anna K**
Sycamore 2. Class teacher **Rosie H**
Other Sycamore staff: Livia, Iwona, Hayley, Mwna, Liz & Saira
Saplings. Senior Nursery Education Workers **Danielle** & **Clare (Breakfast & tea)**





Curriculum

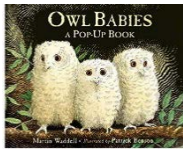
We started the year learning about '**routines and rituals**' to help the new children settle and get everyone back into the familiar structure of the day. This ensured the children felt secure and confident in their new environment and ready to play and learn.

Last half term our topic was **All About Me,** learning about our families, our communities, our cultures, our bodies and celebrating all that is the same and different about ourselves.





We read books such as **Hair, My Skin and I Love My Hair**. We thought this would be a great opportunity to create a mini-hairdressers at school as well as other familiar role-play areas which the children loved.



Our core story was

Owl Babies by **Martin Waddell.**

This is a beautiful story set in the forest where the owl siblings huddle together to wait for their mummy to return home to them. This story is a lovely, engaging way to reassure children that their parents will come back to them! We used this opportunity to learn about owls, what they look like, what they eat, where they go at night and so-on.

As the weather changes, we have been learning about the **different seasons** and how Summer changed into Autumn. The children have really enjoyed picking the apples and pears from our trees and sharing them! We also have been growing tomatoes, carrots and peppers in our growing garden, as well as some tasty herbs. The children have really enjoyed tasting these and even made some delicious carrot soup. We will continue to make full use of our wonderful outdoor area, collecting Autumn leaves, sycamore seeds and all that falls from the trees during this beautiful season, developing children's understanding of the world. We will watch how our Sycamore trees change again as we head into Winter.



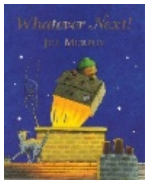




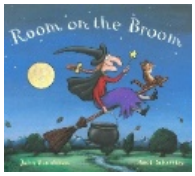
We will be carrying on with our very successful 'Rhyme of the Week' where the children learn a different rhyme each week. We will send home these rhymes so you can include the whole family in singing and enjoying them at home.

This half-term the children will be learning about **Light and Dark**, with a focus on *night and day, space and shadow* and the many exciting festivals that happen at this time of year such as **Diwali, Chanukah** and **Christmas.**

Our fantastic Core books include **Whatever Next! The Gingerbread Man** & **Room On The Broom.**









General information

Changing Clothes

We love messy play! Please provide a change of clothes for your child in case they have a toileting accident or become messy/ wet whilst playing. Every child has a blue box for their clothes. Please ensure these boxes are updated with clothes and **label with your child's name**.

Please also check the **weather** daily and ensure your child is dressed accordingly. We love to go outside whatever the weather so children will need a **coat** to wear, with a hood please. If you have any **wellies** that don't fit your children anymore, please do bring them in. We can keep them with our spare wellies as they are sure to fit someone! We don't use umbrellas at Nursery.

Contact Numbers

Please ensure we have your updated contact details, such as your address, phone numbers and details for **more than 2 emergency** contacts. It is important for us to be able to contact you in an emergency. The emergency contacts don't have to be someone living nearby, just someone who can help us reach you if needed.



Allergy Advice

We have children in school who have severe allergies. We ask parents to help us keep all the children safe by **not allowing** their child to bring food into school. For birthdays, children can bring in some fruit to share with the class or a cake, providing they contain **no nuts and all ingredients are clearly labelled.** We have many children who are dairy free or vegan. We greatly appreciate your support with this.

Fruit time



We would like to continue offering the children fresh fruit and vegetables each day at snack time. If you would like to and you are able, you can **donate** fresh fruit and vegetables. Perhaps you could pick up an extra bag of fruit that could be shared with the children when you go shopping? **Please note that this is entirely optional and we would only want you to donate if you are able.**

Parent workshops



be running parent workshops and meetings throughout the term. Please see attached tion with all dates and what's on offer.

We love to see as many parents and carers as possible at these workshops. *If you have any ideas of workshops that you would like us to organise, please do let us know.*



Attendance and punctuality

We know that good habits from an early age have a very positive impact on achievement. Regular attendance helps children to make friends and learn social skills; enjoy their learning; feel settled, happy and ready for school. If your child is absent from school we ask that you please call in and let us know why they are off and when they will be returning. Please also be punctual for pickup, staff often have meetings at 3.30pm.

Even when you're very small good attendance makes a big difference!





Parents pick -up



If your child is full-time or does afternoons at Nursery, pick up will be from their story group rooms. These may change throughout the term and year. Please ask staff if you are unsure which story group your child is in – Owls, Robins, Woodpeckers. There will be a red box outside the rooms with children's work to be collected. Please do go through the box and find your child's lovely work!

Bikes



We love that the children are riding their bikes and scoot sery! These may be left outside the entrance to Sycamore class but we are unable to take responsibility for them. If you would like to lock them up, we have a bike lock area downstairs outside the main reception area.

This week the children will be taking part in Bikeability, a cycling scheme run by Islington Council. All children will be learning to use balance bikes, or pedal bike if they are ready.



Book bags

We have lovely Margaret McMillan Nursery School book bags for your child to bring in each day. This means they can regularly choose a book to take home and read. Please bring in the book bag daily as they will not be able to take a book home without the bag (to keep it safe). It's also useful for the children to put their lovely work inside!

ITIPS

We are very proud to report that for the past two years we have been focusing on becoming an ITIPS (Islington Trauma Informed Practice School). We have developed a brilliant Positive Behaviour Policy which is on our website. There are many resources and tips in this policy which you may find useful for home too.

https://files.schudio.com/margaret-mcmillan-nursery-school/files/Policies/positive_behaviour_policy_.pdf

Important dates for your diary!

date	time	activity
Wednesday 11th November	9.30-10.30am	**Oral Health workshop for Parents/ Carers** Please come and hear how to support your child with their oral health.
Thursday 12th November	All day	**School photographer** School photo of your child (with siblings if requested).
Friday 13th November	All day	**Children in Need Day** Your child can wear anything spotty and make donations to Children in Need Charity.
Monday 16th November	All day	**Odd Socks Day** Children can wear odd socks to celebrate diversity and inclusivity.
	3.45-5.45pm	**Staff Development Session** **SCHOOL CLOSES AT 3.45pm**
Wednesday 9th December	9-10am	**Toileting workshop, transition meeting an tour of Sycamore class.** All children moving from Sapling to Sycamore class in January 2027
Thursday 10th December	All day Time tbc	**Winter Jumper Day & International Food Evening** All children can wear their festive jumpers to raise money for Save The Children Charity. We welcome all food donations to this faintly event after school.
Friday 18th December		**Last day of term for all children** **School begins again Tuesday 5th January 2027.**

Many thanks for your continued support.

We look forward to a wonderful, exciting term ahead!