

SCALLYWAGS

PRIVATE DAY NURSERY



Newsletter - Spring 2024



New Year Wishes

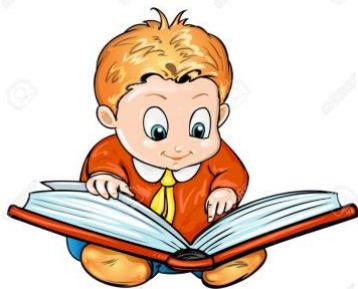
Happy New Year to you all... we trust you all had a very happy Christmas and are feeling excited for the New Year. We would like to thank everyone for the cards and gifts which were very kindly sent in for the staff before Christmas. Your generosity was very much appreciated.

Newsletters will be published three times this year and will be sent out electronically to parents. Copies of all newsletters can also be found on our website.

Monthly Diaries and Review Meetings

At the end of January, all Children will be issued with a new 2024 monthly diary. This diary is very useful as it allows us to share information about your child's development between home and nursery.

Please remember to let us know when you have seen something new that your child has learnt at home so we can mark this off in their development files. Please



remember these documents can also be shared with any other setting your child attends.

We would also like to remind all parents that they are able to book a progress review meeting with their child's key person at any time. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please email the office to book this in.

Winter Weather Warning

The weather in January and February is usually very unpredictable - please remember to

check your emails before setting off each morning. We will always make every effort to open. Most of our staff live locally but we encourage parents to not make unnecessary journeys in extreme conditions. If you have a new email address, please let us know so we can update your contact details.



Bank Holiday Closures 2024

Sallywags will be closed on the following dates:

- Friday 29th March – Good Friday
- Monday 1st April - Easter Monday
- Monday 6th May – Early May Day Holiday
- Monday 27th May – Spring Bank Holiday
- Monday 26th August – Late Summer Holiday

Christmas closures:

24th December the nursery will close at 3.00pm today
The nursery will be closed on the 25th, 26th, 27th, 30th, 31st, December and 1st Jan 2025

(Please note that all bank holidays are charged for in full)

The nursery will re-open on 2nd January 2025

Parent contact details

To ensure we are able to contact all parents via email. Please can you ensure we

have at least one current email address per child. We have had a few occasions recently where emails are bouncing back, and parents are missing important messages.



3 / 4-Year-Old Government

Funding

Funding has now been allocated for all current 3-year olds attending Scallywags. For any child who has their 3rd Birthday between 1st January and 31st March – application forms will be handed out in February. Please ensure you complete these forms in order to be eligible for funding after Easter. Any parent who thinks they may be eligible for 30 free hours, is advised to look at the Childcare Choices website: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk to register and gain an eligibility code. For more information, please see funding display in the main nursery entrance or call the office for more information.

Expansion to early years

funding from 1st April

Following the announcement of the Spring 2023 Budget, the financial support that is going to be available to parents is a follow:

Stage 1 - From **April 2024**, *working parents* of 2-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.

Stage 2 - From **September 2024**, *working parents* of children from the age of 9 months to 3-year-olds will be able to access 15 hours childcare support.

Stage 3 - From **September 2025**, *working parents* of children from 9 months to school age will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

Once we have received the funding figures from the local council, we will get in contact with all parents to 2-year-olds to discuss funding options that they may be eligible for from April 2024.

Handwashing day – Wednesday 10th January

Today we will be teaching the children all about the importance of hand hygiene along with how to wash their hands correctly.

The children will be germ detectives today. They will be playing the glitter hand washing game and the pom pom sneeze game to help them understand how easily



germs are spread and how important it is to catch it, kill it, bin it, approach it.

Nursery rhymes week – Wk 15th January

Nursery rhymes play an important role in early childhood development and education. As well as being fun they are excellent teaching tools. Nursery rhymes and children's songs boost vocabulary and language development and they provide a fun way to support early numeracy skills. This week we will be looking at a different nursery rhyme each day: Jack & Jill / Hickory Dickory Dock / Head, Shoulders, Knees & Toes / Row Row Row Your Boat / Wheels On The Bus.

Bird watch day – Monday 29th January

Today the children will be learning all about the amazing work that the RSPB do. During the day we will be out in the garden taking part in the wild challenge 'feed the birds'. Throughout the day, the children will be making cakes for the birds to hang in the nursery garden.

HAPPY BIRD-DAY!



Chinese New Year – Friday 9th February

Chinese New Year is the Chinese festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar 2024 marks the year of the dragon. The

personality traits of people born in the year of the dragon are: charismatic, intelligent, confident, powerful and they are naturally lucky and gifted. In everything that they do, they tend to do it to the best of their ability with high standards.

Throughout the day children will be learning all about the iconic festival. They will be eating Chinese food, decorating and exchanging red envelopes and dancing with the Scallywags dragon.



Pancake day races - Tuesday 13th February

Today we will be holding our annual pancake day races on the field- please can all children bring a named frying pan to use at the races.

Friendship day – Wednesday 14th February



Today we encourage people across our nursery community to connect with friends. Make a new friend or reconnect with an old one.

Today the children will be

talking about what makes a good friend. They will be making friendship bracelets and we will have a party tea.

Children's wellbeing and mental health day – Tuesday 20th February

This year's theme is 'my voice matters'. Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.



As adults, we should empower children and young people, and provide them with time, space, and opportunities to express themselves.

Today we will be talking to the children about what makes them happy or sad, how they can help each other and where they should go if they want to talk. We will be playing the whisper and string telephone games to demonstrate how important talking is.

St David's Day - Friday 1st

March

Today the children will be learning all about the patron saint of Wales.



They will be making daffodils, researching symbols of Wales and Saint David respectively and making Welsh

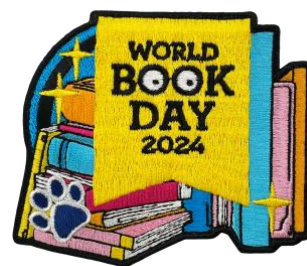
Mother's week – 4th March

This week the children will be making special gifts to take home for their mummy / special ladies in their lives.

cakes.

World Book Day – Thursday 14th March

Today we will be reading a wide range of nursery favourites to the children – with a focus on books written by David McKee. All children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character.



St Patricks Day – Friday 15th March

Today the children will be learning all about the patron saint of Ireland. The children will be going on a scavenger hunt in the garden to see if they can find the lucky leprechauns. They will also be baking tasty Shamrock biscuits.



Melbourne Site

We welcome Kirsty to the team and hope she will be happy working at Scallywags.

Congratulations to Emma Campbell who has successfully completed her level 2 in childcare.

Danielle Brown left us on 8th December to go on maternity leave. We all look forward to hearing about the safe arrival of baby Hudson soon.

Chellaston site

Congratulations to Hannah Bush who has successfully completed her level 2 in childcare and Nickyla Collins who has successfully completed her Level 3 in team leading.

Staff long service awards

At our recent Christmas party we wanted to recognise and celebrate the long service that many of our staff have shown to Scallywags Nursery.

The Melbourne site opened its doors in September 2003 and has gone from strength to strength over the years.

We would like to thank all of our staff for their tireless efforts and unwavering support and dedication to provide good quality childcare to all of our children.

20 Years Award: Kate Moore

15 Years Award: Rachel Seamer / Demi Pass

10 Years Award: Fliss Norris / Linzey Gretton

5 Years Award: Linda King / Aimee Watkins / Kerry Emerton / Julie Jordan / Grace Simnett / Kaye Whyatt-Pass / Rebecca Day / Alicia Boe / Denise Horton-Bradley / Jack Wood / Linda Wright / Vyna Peacock / Bal Cheema / Fiona Green / Nicole May / Nickyla Collins / Heather Ramsey-Elson / Jo Thompson / Tara Davies / Chloe Campbell

Well done and thank you to you all. Your hard work and commitment are truly appreciated. 😊😊😊😊😊



Nursery contact details

Melbourne site: tel 01332 862188

Email: Melbourne@scallywagsnursery.com

Chellaston site: tel 01332 705070

Email: Chellaston@scallywagsnursery.com

Accounts: please can all account queries be emailed to Vyna.

Vyna works 8am – 4pm every Wednesday and Thursday at our Melbourne site.

Email: bookkeeper@scallywagsnursery.com

Parent consultations



Staff are more than happy to set up zoom calls with parents to support with tips, advice, and updates on how your child is getting on at nursery. These chats are available for children that have returned to nursery and children that are still learning at home. If you would like to arrange a virtual catch up chat, please email the office and an invite will be sent out to you.