

# Duchal Nursery School

Give your child the best start in life...

**Duchal Nursery School Newsletter**

**Autumn 2021**

**A Forward - Thinking Nursery - Open 8am to 6pm Everyday**

## A warm welcome as we started the new term

We always enjoy re-opening the Duchal door after the long summer break and hear all the excited chatter filling the nursery once again. Our returning older (blue) teddies are always thrilled to be back with their friends and teachers, and are so welcoming to those just starting their Duchal journey. Our new (red) teddies settled in seamlessly at the start of term with the blue teddies taking their mentoring duties very seriously as they helped the red teddies get used to Duchal life.

## Learning through Play

Learning through play is an important part of nursery life at Duchal and this term we have used the wonderful Julia Donaldson books to base our activities and learning on!!



"A Squash and a Squeeze" not only provided entertaining reading times, but also saw the children making orange / lemon / lime juice in our tuff tray, squishies out of balloons and water beads. "Room on the Broom" gave inspiration for our scarecrow which joined the Community Scarecrow Trail over the Halloween weekend - the children loved getting involved with creating our witch that was flying outside the nursery door.

There was eager anticipation as our pre-school children started to work on their preparation for school with dedicated quiet time when they work

on their fine motor skills and developing numeracy and literacy.



## Outdoor Fun and Learning

The outdoor learning experience at Duchal has been developed again and boasts a new extendable canopy so our outdoor classroom can be used whatever the weather. A huge thank you to some of our former pupils who have helped transform the area in preparation for delivery of a new mud kitchen and teaching space. The children were delighted with the upgrade, and it really demonstrates the strength of the Duchal family when former pupils are so happy to remain involved.



Whether it be a wet welly walk or scavenger hunt around the park, sunny science lessons in the garden, getting creative in our mud kitchen or just enjoying being with friends, our Duchal children are often to be found enjoying the great outdoors. A recent scavenger hunt made use of our detective skills as we went in search of a variety of leaves, winged seeds, bark, grass,

stones and twigs! Creating ample supplies for an autumnal craft session.



### Active Lifestyles

Keeping fit, healthy and active is always part of our daily regime, with walks around the park and this year we're fortunate to have personal training sessions with Colin Cox Fitness in Birkmyre Park as well as weekly football with Morton in the Community. These really do give the children a great opportunity to not only learn new skills but also to instill the benefits of an active lifestyle which will remain with them.



### Festivals

Glitter isn't just for Christmas, although there seems to be a definite increase in demand at the moment with all the preparations for Christmas!

The children have also been learning about other festivals celebrated around the world, including Diwali, Halloween and Guy Fawkes and on our return in January we will be looking at our Scottish celebrations for Burns Night and then finding out more about Chinese New Year.

In the meantime we are preparing our annual Nativity singing lots of Christmas songs and creating a bountiful selection of festive decorations. As you can imagine the excitement is mounting.....

### Helping Others

We're very proud of our children who are giving to the Inverclyde Foodbank to help local people in crisis. They have been busy collecting vital food items to donate to the local foodbank to help those in need, an important life lesson.



There was great delight during our nursery rhyme sing a long for Children in Need. We managed over 40 nursery rhymes as we donned our Pudsey spotty outfits, and no doubt entertained some of the locals as they walked past our open windows!

### Free Places for 3 - 5yr olds

We are delighted that Duchal is a free hours provider, offering 30 hours of free nursery care each week during term time for 3 - 5yr olds.

We are now open from 8.00am - 6pm daily during term time giving parents greater flexibility and improved childcare options. To apply for our free hours and for more information on the registration process please visit <https://www.duchal.com/registration/>

We also have limited places for children age 2yrs 9mths to start before their funding is in place. If this is of interest to you, please get in touch as

soon as possible as spaces are limited, please email [info@duchal.com](mailto:info@duchal.com)

separate rooms allowing quiet study time for our older children.

### What makes Duchal so Special?

Duchal Nursery School is extremely lucky to have such a highly qualified, experienced, enthusiastic, and caring team of teachers, who all play such an important part of what makes Duchal such a special setting for young children, allowing them to grow in confidence during their early years. Since the nursery was established, over 50 years ago, it has given so many children the best start in life.



Duchal Nursery giving your child the best start in life!



Head Teacher Mrs Gheur

  
Introducing our wonderful teachers



Deputy Head Mrs Campbell



Teacher Mrs Grant



Teacher Mrs Watson



Teacher Mrs Wylie

### Duchal is more than just a nursery

As the only specialist pre-school nursery in the area, we are dedicated to providing the best education for 3 - 5 year olds.

- The children benefit hugely from our high teacher to pupil ratio of 1:6 rather than the national recommendation of 1:8, allowing the teachers to really know and understand each individual's needs.
- With great links with our local schools the children make a seamless transition to primary school, moving on to a variety of schools in Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Glasgow.
- Our pre-school children have dedicated time each day to concentrate on learning skills for school, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday nursery activities. One of the many benefits of having 3

- Following the curriculum for excellence with many play based activities Duchal is first and foremost a pre-school rather than a child care facility.
- With our own native speaking French teacher the children are exposed to a new language through songs and fun activities from a young age.



### Applications to Duchal for August 2022

Applications for funded places will be issued early in the New Year. If you have not yet registered your interest in a place at Duchal please email [info@duchal.com](mailto:info@duchal.com) so we can send you the application form. Similarly, if you know any new families to the area or anyone who hasn't yet decided on their nursery place, please encourage them to contact us to arrange a visit to experience Duchal for themselves.

Keep up to date with all our news on our Facebook Page and our website.  
<https://www.facebook.com/DuchalNurserySchool/>  
<https://www.duchal.com> or email: [info@duchal.com](mailto:info@duchal.com)

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[www.duchal.com](http://www.duchal.com) Email: [info@duchal.com](mailto:info@duchal.com) Tel 01505 874358