

### Messages:

Dear Parents/Carers,

A reminder that if your child is in our nursery, you will need to apply for a school place before 15th January 2021 ready for September 2021. You can do this by visiting:

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/children-and-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-primary-school-place/dates-and-deadlines#guide-sections>. We recommend you apply by 8 January 2021, just in case there are any problems with getting online or logging into the site. If you would like to find out more about our super school, please do come and have a chat with us.

16 April 2021: you'll get an offer by email in the evening

30 April 2021: this is your deadline to accept (or turn down) your school place

14 May 2021: you must send in any appeals by this date. You can appeal even if you've accepted the school place offered.

### At Nursery we get messy, very messy!

There is a lot of research to show the importance of messy and sensory play for children's development. As adults we sometimes find it harder to accept things getting messy, like a nice, new Nursery outfit. At Duncombe Nursery we are quite the opposite. We positively love making mess and all of the benefits that it brings to children's learning. Messy play focuses on children exploring and experimenting. It often has no end goal, but allows children to use all of their senses and go wherever their imagination or creativity will take them.

Playing in a Mud Pie Kitchen or sharing an easel can be a very sociable activity, although doesn't have to rely on the use of language. Even through gesture, or playing alongside one another, children can share in each other's' discoveries. By engaging in messy or sensory play, children can experience new textures or sensations, explore the use of different tools, take risks, and learn new words to describe their play or even build their confidence to try new things. There are a whole host of reasons for us to embrace messy and sensory play in the Nursery and why we will never be precious about children's outfits. So, if you still can't get out that grass stain no matter how many times the jumper has been washed, please don't worry, it means that your child has been learning.

### Literacy:

This week the children have been talking about their similarities and differences. They found out that some of their friends are taller, whilst some are shorter. Some are older, while others are younger. Some have dark hair, whilst others have blonde hair. Some are good at riding a bike and some are not. These are just some of the differences that make them unique. They also found out that, despite their differences, they all wear clothes, they all eat food, they all go to Nursery, and most importantly, they are all friends. To support their learning they shared the book *'It's Ok to be Different'* by Sharon Purtill. Attached is a version of the book for you to enjoy with the children at home. Please talk to the children about what makes them the same or different to the children in



the book and why it is important that we all show kindness to each other.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnpkZAJ7Bss>