

01243 642950
September and
October 2017



Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back!

We would like to wish all our new families a very warm welcome to the Nursery School, and our returning families a sincere welcome back. We look forward to a happy and busy year ahead and to getting to know all our parents and children individually.

This term the school diary is full, and a list of key dates can be found on the last page of this Update. **Please make sure you look at this as it also gives the dates that we are closed for INSET training.**



In this Update you will find information on:

- Staff Updates
- Friends of Chichester Nursery School
- Harvest Festival
- Fun morning for prospective children and parents
- Apply to be a parent governor
- Nursery clothing
- Changes of address and contact details
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- Dates for your diary **(including closure dates)**

Staff Updates

We are welcoming two new members of staff this term. Holly Maybee is joining us as a Nursery Assistant and Harriet Owers is joining us as a one-to-one support worker, both will be working in the Up to 3s' Nursery. Holly has just completed her degree in Early Childhood Studies and Harriet also works for PACSO, supporting children with special

needs, so both of them will bring new ideas and experience to the team. We are delighted to welcome them and hope they will enjoy their new posts with us.

In Nursery School, we have had no new members of staff but Sophie Meigh has very kindly agreed to take on the role of Nursery Nurse, vacated by Maisie, until a permanent replacement is appointed. Sophie is an experienced member of staff who has been with us for some time and we are very grateful to her for taking on this role.

Friends of Chichester Nursery School

The Friends of Chichester Nursery School are holding their first coffee morning of the year at 9.30 am on Wednesday 20th September, which might have happened already by the time you get this newsletter.

However, don't worry if you missed it. The group will be meeting regularly, and if you would like to join them, just ask any member of staff to point you in the direction of Jodie Ellis, the Chair of the Friends.

The Friends plan to organise a range of events throughout the year to raise funds for the Nursery School, which will go towards buying resources and equipment that we would not otherwise be able to afford.

Harvest Festival

The Nursery School will be holding its annual Harvest Festival on Wednesday 4th October. As in the past, we hope to donate our contributions to Chichester Food Bank. A table will be set up in the Nursery lobby from Monday 25th September to receive your donations. Tinned and packaged foods are recommended as these last longer.

Fun morning for prospective children

The Nursery School is holding a Fun Morning on Saturday 14th October from 10 am to 1 pm – to showcase our setting to parents in the locality who might be looking for a Nursery place for their child. If you know anyone who falls into this category please let them know about it – our parents are always our best advertisement and we are very grateful to you for telling other people about us!

Apply to be a parent governor

We have vacancies on the governing body for 3 new parent governors (and hopefully you have already received a letter about this). This is your opportunity to shape the future of the school. Applications need to be in by Friday 29th September and, if by any chance you haven't yet received your letter, please come and collect one from my office.

Nursery Clothing

As we move into the Autumn term the weather becomes more variable and children need to be equipped for both indoor and outdoor play, so heavier jumpers and coats (preferably waterproof) will become the order of the day.

We try and encourage children to take care of their own belongings, putting them on their peg when not in use, and staff also try and keep track of abandoned clothing. However, with a large number of children all of whom have “bits and pieces” this is not always possible. It helps us enormously if you can label your child’s clothing. Iron-on labels are available from uniform shops in Chichester but biro seems to work just as well!!

Changes of address and contact details

If you have had any changes of address or contact details over the holiday, please ensure that the Reception staff are informed. If your child has an accident or is ill at school it is important that we can contact you promptly.

New video system

You will have seen that we have had a new video call system installed at the key-padded door half way down the corridor. This is so that parents can be identified remotely and let in quickly, either by the staff in the office or Up to 3s’ staff. However, you might be confused about which button you

need to press. So to clarify matters here are some instructions:

- If your child attends the Up to 3s' Nursery (and for all children after 5 pm) – press the **Nursery** buzzer
- For Nursery School children and for general office enquiries from 8.40 am to 5.00 pm – press the **Office** buzzer
- Please make sure you stand in front of the screen so that you can be clearly seen and identified

Use of mobile phones

Whilst on the subject of technology, could I remind everyone that the use of mobile phones is not permitted in Nursery School or the Up to 3s' for child protection reasons.

Open door policy

Informal opportunities are always available for discussion with your child's keyworker about their learning, progress or any concerns you may have. However, due to the constraints of the full Nursery day it may be necessary to schedule a mutually convenient time for this to happen. The Headteacher and Senior Management Team also operate an 'open door' policy, and you are most welcome to ask for a more confidential discussion through the office at any point.

Formal consultation evenings with your child's key worker will be held throughout the year, and the first of these will be on:

- Wednesday 29th November for Up to 3s' children
- Wednesday 6th December for Nursery School children

In addition, children receive a written report soon after their 2nd birthday in the Up to 3s' Nursery and just before they go to primary school if they are in Nursery School.

October half-term holiday care deadline

Parents of Nursery School children who want to book holiday care for the October half-term are reminded that forms need to be in by Friday 22nd September in order for places to be guaranteed.

Car Parking and Walk to School Draw

As you will already have realised, the Nursery car park is not large and is also shared with the next door building. For the safety of everyone, particularly the children, we ask that:

- You follow the direction arrows round the car park
- Drive at a slow speed
- **Park only in designated spaces**

Parking is normally available on St James' Road and St James' Square (turn right out of the gate and then first left) if there are no designated spaces available in the car park.

A big thank you to all those parents who do park sensibly and help make our car park safe.

If you choose to walk to Nursery School from home you can take part in our monthly Walk to School Draw and have the chance of winning a £20 Sainsbury's voucher – remember to collect your raffle ticket from the reception desk each day that you walk.

Fruit Donations

Some parents will already know that the Nursery School has a kitchen area where children are able to help themselves to fruit and other healthy snacks.

To help us supplement the snacks we provide, we would be grateful if parents could donate a few pieces of fruit to the school when their child's keyworker is in the kitchen area. This works out to be about once every half term.

The fruit collected will be shared with all children using the kitchen during the week. The noticeboard in the entrance corridor will remind you when it is your child's turn to bring in fruit.

The Up to 3s' will be starting this system shortly as well, so look out for which Up to 3s' group's turn it is to bring fruit in as well

Changes to Up to 3s' Opening days over the Christmas and New Year period

The last newsletter implied that the Up to 3s' would be closed on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd January – this is not true and entirely my mistake – the Up to 3s' Nursery will be open on those days and I apologise if you have made arrangements based on this mis-information. However, both Nursery School and the Up to 3s' will be closed on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th January for inset training.

Dates for your Diary

Wed 20 th September	9.15 am Friends of Chichester Nursery School coffee morning
Wed 4 th October	Harvest festival (children only) but donations of tins and other non-perishable food very welcome
Sat 14 th October	Fun Day 10-1(for prospective parents only I'm afraid, but please tell any friends or family members who might be looking for a place for their child about this event)
Fri 20 th October	Nursery School and Up to 3s' closed for Inset training
Mon 30 th October	Nursery School and Up to 3s' closed for Inset training
Mon 23 rd to Fri 27 th October inc	Nursery School half-term (pre-booked daycare only for all children except those on the 15 hour stretched option)
Wed 13 th Dec	Christmas Songs Round the Tree with parents: 11.15 am for morning and beginning of the

	<p>week C group children 2.00 pm for afternoon and end of the week D group children Parents of 30 hour children attending every day from 9-3.45 can choose which performance they attend</p>
Wed 20 th December	Nursery School Christmas parties and last day of Autumn term for Nursery School children
Fri 22 nd December	Up to 3s' Christmas party and last day before Christmas break
Tue 2 nd January	Up to 3s' Nursery open (pre-booked daycare available)
Wed 3 rd January	Up to 3s' Nursery open (pre-booked daycare available)
Thur 4 th January	Nursery School and Up to 3s' closed for Inset training
Fri 5 th January	Nursery School and Up to 3s' closed for Inset training
Mon 8 th January	Nursery School and Up to 3s' open again