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Christmas Edition



Update



Dear Parents and Carers,

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Harvest Festival

First of all, a big “thank you” for all your contributions for our Harvest Festival this year - we had a magnificent array of tins and packets which have now been passed on to Chichester Food Bank, and they have asked that we pass on their thanks to you also. The food you contributed will be distributed to families on low incomes in the Chichester area who struggle to have enough to eat.

Hallowe'en cake sale

Thank you so much to the Friends of Chichester Nursery School for organising their fantastic Hallowe'en cake sale and to all those parents who contributed the most amazing and scary cakes! Over £160 was raised for the school to buy additional resources and equipment which it would not otherwise be able to afford.

Children in Need

We have decided that Wednesday 15th November will be our Children in Need day – so that children who attend at both ends of the week will be able to enjoy the range of spotty “Pudsey” activities on offer. Come into Nursery wearing spots and bring a donation for this worthy cause.

Parent Consultations

Nursery School:

The Nursery School will be holding parent consultations on Wednesday 6th December.

This is a chance to discuss your child's progress with their keyworker and voice any worries or concerns that you might have. It is also an opportunity to talk about "next steps" in your child's learning. These will be small targets that we can work together to help your child achieve during the Spring term.

Your child's keyworker will have a list of appointments available for you to sign up to, shortly.

Up to 3s' Nursery

The Up to 3s' will be holding informal consultations on Wednesday 13th December from 6 – 7.30 pm. This will be an opportunity for parents to have an informal chat with their child's keyworker, although more private consultations in a quieter location can be accommodated if needed.

As this event is close to Christmas we have decided to give it a festive theme and mulled wine and mince pies will be served while you chat to your child's keyworker, look at their special POW

book or watch films and photographs of the Nursery day streamed on an ipad.

The Up to 3s' staff will be talking to you further about this on an individual basis

Additional sessions

Many parents find it useful to be able to book "one-off" additional sessions if they have appointments or other unexpected events which come up.

We try our best to accommodate these requests but would be grateful if you could give us as much notice as possible and, at the latest, by Wednesday of the week before the session is needed. It may be that even with this notice we will be unable to provide a lunch session as our food has to be ordered well in advance.

It goes without saying, however, that we would always want to help you out in a true emergency!

Starting School

Is your child 5 between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019? If so, it is time to take the exciting step of applying for their place at primary school. All applications need to be made online through www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions, and free internet access is available through computers in our reception area or local libraries. For further advice or information, please talk to a

member of staff or phone 03330 142 903. Applications must be received by **Monday 15th January.**

Staff leavers and joiners

There is both good news and not so good news here.

First the not so good news – parents of children in the Up to 3s' Nursery will be sad to hear that Rachel Huffell will be leaving us in the middle of the month. Rachel has been a Nursery Nurse with us for a number of years and we will miss her commitment and expertise. Rachel has decided to take a new career path which will enable her to spend more time with her own little girl. We would like to thank her for all she has done for us and wish her well for the future.

Up to 3s' parents should already have received a letter explaining that Emma Randall will temporarily step up to the role of keyworker for Blue group until a permanent appointment is made. Emma is an experienced member of staff who has been with us for many years and we are very grateful to her for agreeing to take on this additional responsibility.

We also have two new members of staff who have joined us during the course of this term. Jasmin Cooper and Sarah Melville have started as

Nursery Assistants in the Nursery School. They have settled in well and we welcome them to the team.

Finally, following a round of recent interviews, we have now appointed to the Up to 3s' Nursery Manager position. Hayley Munt will be joining us in the New Year – she is an experienced practitioner who holds an Early Years Teacher qualification and is looking forward to meeting you all in January. In the meantime, I would like to say a huge thank you to Charlotte Bedford who stepped up to the Nursery Manager role admirably when Natalie left, even though this meant a much increased work load for her. Charlotte chose not to apply for the manager post as she felt it would be prove too much at the moment alongside her university studies for her foundation degree, but we realise how lucky we are to have her as our Deputy Manager.

Application for parent governor position

We have one more parent governor position available on our governing body. This is your opportunity to have a voice in shaping the day-to-day and strategic direction of the school. A further important role of the governing body is to act as a critical friend to the Headteacher and Senior Management team, ensuring that the school is being run to a high standard, that levels of pupil progress are good or better and that targets set in

the annual School Improvement Plan are being met.

If you are interested in this role please pop by my office for a chat and to collect an application form. The closing date for applications is Friday 8th December and if there is more than one application a voting procedure will apply

30 hour entitlement

Parents of children who are eligible for the 30 hours free entitlement, but choose to take this as 15 hours stretched over term-time and holiday periods, may not be aware that they have a portion of free entitlement time left over which would allow their child to take 2 additional sessions per week.

If you would like your child to take up these additional sessions from January, please ask in the office. The only proviso is that these have to be morning or afternoon sessions rather than breakfast, lunch or tea sessions, and the same sessions need to be taken consistently week on week.



It may still seem a bit far off, but time goes so quickly at this time of year that we need to let you know about our arrangements for the run up to

Christmas and when parties and performances will be.

Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 13th December is Christmas Jumper Day – come into Nursery wearing yours and make a contribution to Save the Children Fund to help them support needy children around the world. Don't worry if you haven't got a Christmas jumper just decorate an old jumper with Christmassy bits and pieces – it will be both stylish and individual!

Songs Around the Tree (Nursery School)

Coincidentally, **Wednesday 13th December** is also the day of our Songs Around the Tree. In a departure from our usual more structured Christmas performances of the past, this will be more relaxed and informal occasion. Children, parents and keyworkers will all gather around our tree in the Nursery garden, which will be suitably decorated, to sing Christmas songs together. This will be followed by warm punch (sadly non-alcoholic) and mince pies.

Morning Songs around the tree will start at 11.15 for morning children and children in Angie and Sophie's groups

Afternoon Songs around the tree will start at 2.00 for afternoon children and children in Eve and Wendy's groups.

Parents of children who attend for the full 30 hours a week can choose which performance they come to, but please let your child's keyworker know which one you have chosen to attend.

Nursery School Parties

The Nursery School Christmas parties will take place on **Wednesday 20th December** (which is the last day of term). Children will take part in games, dancing, watch a children's entertainer and have a party lunch/tea. We may also have a visit from Father Christmas.

Because a 3 hour session is too long for a party, school on the 20th will start later than usual at:

- **10.00 a.m.** *(for morning session children and Angie and Sophie's beginning of the week groups)*
- **1:45 p.m.** *(for afternoon session children and Eve and Wendy's end of the week groups and all children in Julie's group)*

Please do not bring your child to Nursery until the party starts. If this presents a problem for working parents, please inform your child's key worker as soon as possible. The Nursery will make arrangements for exceptional cases. Refunds for children who normally attend a

breakfast session on that day will be made in January.

We would be grateful for contributions of party food for this Christmas party. Lists will be displayed outside the office toward the end of the month. Please sign up!

Unlike Up to 3s' parties, parents of Nursery School children do not stay for this event.

Up to 3s' Nursery Party (Children under three)

Staff from the Up to 3s' Nursery would like to invite families to take part in their traditional Christmas celebration on the last open day, **Friday 22rd December**. Children will take part in games and sing the Christmas songs they've learnt in Nursery. Parents are welcome to join in the celebrations starting at 2.00 p.m. There might even have a visit from the man in red!



Gift wrapping—Help wanted

Can you keep a secret? Are you available on either the **morning or afternoon of Friday 1st or Friday 8th December?**

We are looking for a team of willing parents to help us wrap presents for the children. We'll supply the paper, sellotape, tea, coffee and biscuits, if you can supply the manpower.

If you are available please let reception know.

Friends of Christmas cake sale

The Friends of Chichester Nursery School are also planning some Festive activities, including a cake sale. Posters and leaflets about these events will follow shortly so make sure you look out for them.

Christmas Closure Dates

The Nursery School and Up to 3s' Nursery are closed between Christmas and New Year. The actual closure dates are quite complicated so here they are again just to remind you:-

- Nursery School finishes on Wednesday 20th December
- The Up to 3s' Nursery will close on Friday 22nd December
- The Up to 3s' Nursery will open again on Tuesday 2nd January and remain open on Wednesday 3rd January
- The Up to 3s' Nursery will be closed on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th January for inset training
- Nursery School and Up to 3s' Nursery open again on Monday 8th January and everything is back to normal!!

Other key dates for your diary are listed on the last page.

Finally, may we wish all our children
and their families a very Happy
Christmas and New Year!



Dates for your Diary

Wed 15 th Nov	Children in Need Day
Wed 13 th Dec	Christmas jumper day in aid of Save the Children fund
Wed 13 th Dec	<p>Christmas Songs Round the Tree with parents:</p> <p>11.15 am for morning and beginning of the week C group children</p> <p>2.00 pm for afternoon and end of the week D group children</p> <p>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
Mon 12 th to Fri 16 th Feb inc	Nursery School Half-term (pre-booked holiday care available)