



Chichester
Nursery School

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November/December 2018

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As it is now November, I think we're safe to say the CHRISTMAS word!!

The build up to Christmas is one of the most exciting times in Nursery and we have lots of things going on that your children will hopefully enjoy (and bits for you to join in with too) more about Christmas later!

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

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Staffing Updates

Having said goodbye to some staff in the last newsletter, we have several "hello's" to say this time, which is really exciting (and just a couple of goodbyes!)



Many of the Up to 3s' parents will have met **Sarah Davis**, who is working as a Nursery Assistant in the Up to 3s' and **Sarah Melville** has hopped over the gate to be part of the wonderful Up to 3s' team too!



In Nursery School we have several staff helping to support some of our children with additional needs and so we are delighted to welcome **Clare Senior** and **Paula Pearce**.

Finally, we are very pleased to have **Hazel Peacock** on our bank staff list (another Hazel!) Again, many of you will already have seen Hazel working in both the Nursery School and Up to 3s', covering staff sickness, holiday or other meetings.

Do take the chance to say hi to some of our new faces and we hope they feel very welcome with us!

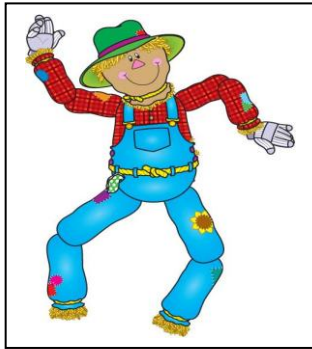
There are a couple of sad farewells coming up though. Firstly, **Emma Randall**, who has worked in the Up to 3s' for several years and in the Over 3s' this term has been offered an exciting opportunity to progress her career since gaining her NVQ qualification at Fishbourne Preschool. We will miss Emma's energy, sense of fun and Makaton skills but wish her the very best in her new job – they're lucky to have her!

Emma's role in covering staff's PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time in the afternoons will be filled by **Natasha Kokina** from the Up to 3s', who will now be undertaking the challenging task of working on both sides of the

Nursery (mornings in the Up to 3s' and afternoons in Nursery School). Natasha has worked with us for many years, firstly in the Creche and for the last couple of years in the Up to 3s' so can handle anything and knows so many of the children and families well.

Secondly, our lovely **Liz Sandy**, Keyworker to Orange Group in the Nursery School is sadly leaving us at the beginning of December. Many of you will know that Liz is already a proud Nanny to her Grandson Ethan. However, she is soon to have two more grandchildren to occupy her time and so the pull to be close to her family in Oxford and spend time with them is impossible to resist! Liz has been a much valued part of the Nursery for many years now and will be greatly missed, but we know she is going to be kept very busy and will be in her absolute element!

Our final bit of staffing news is to announce that after a very successful interview **Emma Brennan** in the Up to 3s' has been promoted to the role of Senior Nursery Nurse. This means she will be leading and overseeing practice in the Nursery from day to day and assisting Charlotte in her role as Nursery Manager. Congratulations Emma on this very well deserved promotion!



Harvest Festival

The Nursery School enjoyed our Harvest Festival celebrations last month. Darren, a Youth Worker from St Pancras Church in Chichester came to join our celebrations and we taught him the “Dingle Dangle Scarecrow” song. Thank you so much to everyone who so generously donated food, we were quite overwhelmed by the amount you gave! Chichester Food Bank were really appreciative of the food we contributed to their stocks!

Food Bank Vouchers

Talking of the Food Bank, we are pleased to announce that we now hold Food Bank Vouchers! We know that it doesn't take much for a family to suddenly find themselves struggling and so if you ever find yourself in that position, please do not hesitate to come and see me, Clare, Charlotte or Denise & Sue in the office – we can all give out Foodbank Vouchers.



Friends of Chichester Nursery School

The Friends of Chichester Nursery School successfully raised £1,320 for us last year through our Summer Fair plus money from other events throughout the

year. However, we know that many hands make light work and so would love to recruit some new parents to join our group.

The Friends will be meeting throughout the year to plan events to raise money for the Nursery School, which will go towards buying resources and equipment that we couldn't afford otherwise.

So, if you've got some good fundraising ideas and can spare the odd hour every now and then, please do come and see me, or your child's keyworker to volunteer to join our Friends. It's also a great way of getting to know other parents if you're new to the Nursery!

Children in Need

Friday 17th November is Children in Need day. Come in to Nursery wearing spots and bring a donation for this worthy cause. Children will be able to enjoy a range of spotty "Pudsey" activities on offer.



Christmas Holiday Care Deadline

Parents of Nursery School children who want to book holiday care for the Christmas period are reminded that forms need to be in by Friday 23rd

November in order for places to be guaranteed.

Parent App

I am very excited to announce that our Parent App is now up and running! We hope this will be a great way of keeping in touch with you and helping communicate important events and messages.



On your Smartphone please download “Our Schools App” from the Appstore and select “Chichester Nursery” (not “Chichester Nursery Children & Family Centre”)

On the App you will find Nursery calendar dates, a link to our Facebook page, a digital copy of our newsletter and much more!

Do download the App and let us know how you find it.

Parent Consultations

These evenings are coming up very soon now and this is a great chance to have a catch up with your child’s key worker and hear about their progress in Nursery:



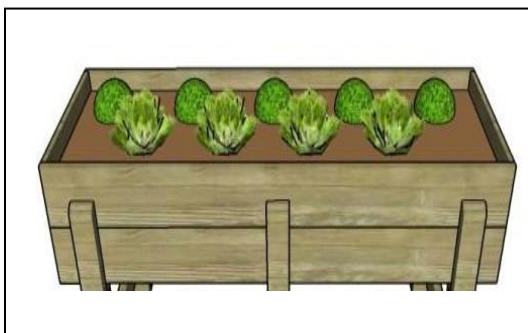
- Wednesday 28th November for Up to 3s’ children
- Wednesday 5th December for Nursery School children

Sign up lists will be available for the Over 3s' a couple of weeks beforehand – you should find them near your child's group room. Parents in Hannah and Liz's groups will have an additional morning session for parents to book appointments.

Please try and do everything possible to make these dates, as it is really difficult when parents ask staff to make appointments in their own time!

Up to 3s' have a more informal evening this term with drinks and nibbles.

Please note that due to the costs of having to pay additional staff we are no longer able to look after children and their siblings at Parent Consultations, on either Wednesday evening.



Sponsor a Planter!

Do you have Green Fingers? Want to spend some time with your child helping them learn to look after one of the planters or

hanging baskets outside the front of Nursery? We are offering families the chance to sponsor a planter for a term. If you choose to sign up to sponsor a planter, you will have your names on a little sign in your chosen planter. We have been donated a waterbutt that has been set up outside the front of Nursery and, starting in January, we will put out a container with watering cans/basic

gardening tools each day, which families can use to tend to their planter and return (an ideal activity for the waiting time before sessions or after Nursery!) You get to supply the plants you want to go in the planters and we can't wait to see the results!

Please see Sue in the office to sign up for your planter.



Buggy Parking

We recently held a fire evacuation test to make sure our procedures work effectively for getting out of Nursery in the event of a fire. You'll be pleased to hear we all got out quickly, but we did have problems accessing the fire panel, due to the number of buggies parked in between the two sets of sliding doors. Please remember to take your child's buggy away with you after dropping them off.

Families Aloud!

We are very excited about the return of "Families Aloud" on November 18th. This is your opportunity to come and play in Nursery with your child/children (older and younger siblings are very welcome too, as are grandparents, cousins and friends!) and a chance to get to know other parents better. We are going to trial



providing a hot dog for each person, fruit, a cuppa for parents and milk/water for children. This event is free but Nursery finances are incredibly tight so we would very much welcome any donations parents would be able to make – a pot will be available on the day. We hope to see lots of you there and that you have a wonderful time!



A Plea for Quiet!

Grouptimes are an important part of the day at Nursery and the only time where children are expected to sit and listen and follow an activity led by an adult.

This is vital development of their attention and listening skills, which are obviously essential for life and much needed at school. However, it is difficult for the children to sustain attention when parents are talking loudly outside group rooms. We recognise it is also really important that parents chat to each other and build relationships so would be really grateful if you could keep the conversations a little quieter to enable children to concentrate right to the end of grouptimes. Thanks so much!

Table Top Sale

As part of our fundraising activities we are planning a table top sale in January at Nursery. This is a great



opportunity to have a post-Christmas clear out that is always so necessary , and much warmer than a car boot sale in January! Come to the office or ring up and book your table for £10 then come along on **Saturday 19th January** and sell your unwanted bits and pieces. You keep any money you make! Open to the whole community, whether or not they are connected to the Nursery, so do invite friends and family. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided for all sellers.



Wednesday Pick Up's

We are so grateful to the parents who have made arrangements to be able to collect children at 5pm on Wednesdays so that our Up to 3s' staff meetings can start on time. We know this isn't always easy but please ensure you pick up your child promptly at 5pm (or just before if you want a brief handover chat with your child's keyworker) so that staff meetings can start on time. We have been losing approximately 15 minutes of staff meeting time each week at the moment, due to late collections! Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS



Here comes the Christmas section... everything you need to know about our Christmas events and activities will be explained below:



Christmas Jumper Day

Wednesday 12th December is Christmas Jumper Day – come into Nursery wearing yours and make a contribution to Save the Children Fund to help 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 Christmas Tree (Nursery School)



Wednesday 12th December is also the day of our Songs Around the Christmas Tree. This is a relaxed and informal occasion. Children, parents and keyworkers will all gather around our tree in the Nursery garden, which will be decorated to look all Christmassy, and sing Christmas songs together. This will be followed by warm punch (sadly non-alcoholic) and

mince pies in the main Children's Centre area, where you can enjoy activities at our Christmas Fayre (more details to follow later)

Morning Songs around the tree will start at 11.00 for morning children and children in Angie's group.

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

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 19th 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. They will also have a visit from Father Christmas.



Because a 3 hour session is too long for a party, school on the 19th will start later than usual at:

- **10.00 a.m.** (for morning session children and Angie's beginning of the week group)

- **1:45 p.m.** (for afternoon session children and Eve's end of the week group and all children in Julie's group and Sophie'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 the Christmas parties. 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' Christmas Celebrations

The Up to 3s' are going to have a tea party for ALL the children to attend **without parents** on **Tuesday 18th December** from 2pm-4pm. We will be putting a sign-up sheet for food contributions from parent nearer the time.

Then on **Friday 21st December**, from 2pm-4pm we will be having a 'Singing Around the Christmas Tree' session for **all Up to 3s' children and their parents** to take part in, plus we're hoping for a visit from Santa!

We will finish off with a stay and play session, where staff can celebrate children's achievements and interests with parents/carers, whilst they enjoy some time playing in the Nursery with their children. **Please note this will be our last day open before Christmas!**

Gift wrapping—Help wanted

Can you keep a secret? Are you available on either the **morning or afternoon of Friday 30th November or Friday 7th 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 the Office know.

Opening Days Over the Christmas and New Year period

Christmas & New Year closures are always a little complicated, so do look closely at the diary over the page.

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



Dates for Your Diary

Sun 18 th November	<u>Families Aloud!</u> 10am-12pm Bring the whole family and enjoy some time playing together in Nursery, with a free hot dog, cuppa and fruit.
Weds 28 th November	<u>Up to 3s' Consultation Evening</u>
Fri 30 th November	<u>Present Wrapping</u> (am/pm after dropping children off) Parent Volunteers needed to help wrap children's Christmas presents
Weds 5 th December	<u>Nursery School Parent Consultation Evening</u>
Fri 7 th December	<u>Present Wrapping</u> (am/pm after dropping children off) Parent Volunteers needed to help wrap children's Christmas presents
Wed 12 th December	<u>Christmas Songs Around the Tree with parents:</u> 11.00 am for morning and beginning of the 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
Wed 12 th December	<u>Nursery Christmas Fayre</u> 10.00am - 3pm (in the main area of the Children's Centre) <u>Christmas Jumper Day</u> Wear your favourite festive jumper and bring a donation for Save the Children

Tues 18 th December	<u>Up to 3s' Christmas Tea Party</u> For ALL children (no parents) from 2-4pm
Wed 19 th December	<u>Nursery School Christmas Parties</u> Last day of Autumn term for Nursery School children PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN UNTIL 10am for the morning party & 1.45pm for the afternoon
Fri 21 st December	<u>Up to 3s' Singing Around the Christmas Tree and last day before Christmas break</u> ALL children and parents welcome (whether or not they usually attend on this day from 2-4pm) (pre-booked daycare only for all children plus Adventurers (15 hour stretched option))
Wed 2 nd January	<u>Up to 3s' Reopens</u> (pre-booked daycare only for all children plus Adventurers (15 hour stretched option))
Thur 3 rd January	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training
Fri 4 th January	<u>Nursery School Closed for Home Visits</u> (Up to 3' Open & pre-booked daycare only for all children plus Adventurers (15 hour stretched option))
Mon 8 th January	Nursery School and Up to 3s' open again
Mon 18 th February - Fri 22 nd February	<u>Nursery School Half-Term</u> Pre-booked holiday care available plus Adventurers (15 hour stretched option)
Mon 25 th February	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training