



Chichester
Nursery School

01243 642959

March/April

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Finally there are signs that Spring is on the way! We hope those of you that were off over half term got out and enjoyed some of the sunshine.

This is a short but busy half term, as we prepare for Easter, plus we have things like World Book Day and Red Nose Day in between that take up a lot of time and energy for us (and you as parents and carers!) We know these “special days” can be quite stressful for you so we have tried to keep it as simple as possible!

As always, there is a list of key dates at the end of this booklet to help you keep track of everything that is going on. **This includes our final INSET day of the year, dates for the last day of the Nursery Year and the start of the new School Year in September** for those of you that like to plan ahead!

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Staffing Updates
- Friends of Chichester Nursery School
- Chicks
- Sponsor a Planter
- Clothing Bank
- Walk to School
- Parent Consultations
- POWs
- Final INSET Day of the Year
- Sizzling Sausage Weekend
- Toy Amnesty
- World Book Day
- Red Nose Day
- Early Collection
- Easter Holiday Care Deadline
- Easter Celebrations
- Parent's App & Facebook
- Rainbow Theatre
- Bognor 10K Run Fundraising Event
- Families Aloud
- Summer Fair
- Dates for your Diary **(including closure dates)**



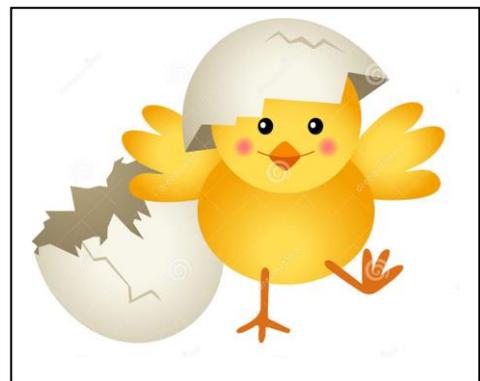
Staffing Updates

Many of our newer staff are now settling in well to their roles and are feeling very much like they've always been part of our team. We know they are enjoying getting to know you and your children too. However, we do have one departure to announce:

Donna McKenzie, who works in the Up to 3s' Nursery is moving on to pastures new at the beginning of March, having been offered a position at Walberton Community Playcentre. Donna has been with us since 2010, starting out as a Creche Worker in our Children's Centre. She also organised our Summer Fair and other fundraising events for many years. She (and her amazing homemade cakes!) will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best in her new position.

Chicks!

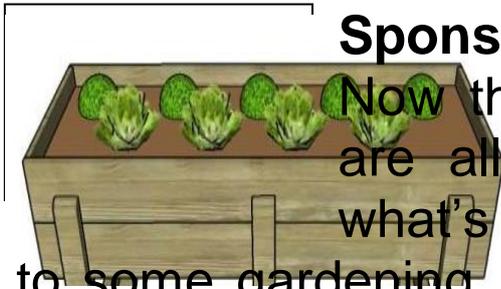
We are planning to have some eggs again this year, which will hopefully hatch in to a gorgeous batch of chicks! As you know, we are asking if parents and carers could help



us by donating £1.50 per family to cover the cost of this. A few people have already donated some money and you will see our new fundraising board in the corridor leading up to Nursery, which will

track our progress towards our target. We hope you will enjoy them as much as the children do when they arrive – and look out for “chick updates” on our Facebook Page!

Sponsor a Planter!



Now the weather is warming up we are all starting to pay attention to what’s growing outside and get down to some gardening. If you are keen to do a little gardening with your child, you could sign up to sponsor a planter for a term. You choose and supply the plants you want to go in the planters and we put your names on a sign in your chosen planter. We provide a waterbutt, watering cans and some gardening tools, which families can borrow to tend to their planter (an ideal activity for the waiting time before sessions or after Nursery!) Thanks to those who have adopted one so far, they really brighten up the entrance around Nursery!

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

Clothing Bank

A huge thank you to everyone who has been donating clothing and other items to our clothing bank. This is bringing in a little bit of money each month, which we are able to save up and put towards things we need in Nursery but can’t always afford,



for example the Up to 3s' recently purchased new aprons for the children to wear at mealtimes, as the current ones urgently needed replacing. Anyone can donate, so do spread the word to friends and neighbours who live locally. The clothing bank takes donations of not only clothes, but books, shoes, towels, DVD's and more.

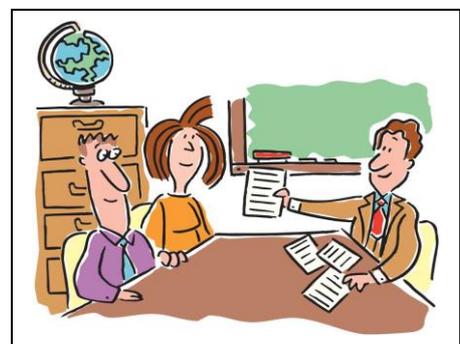


Walk to School

We are making a slight change to our "Walk to School" incentive scheme. As you know, it is often very difficult to find a space in our car park and by walking to school you are getting in some of those vital "steps per day" and helping the environment too! So to reward those who walk to school (this includes anyone who parks on the road and not in the car park) we will now be offering a £10 Sainsbury's voucher to the winner. This will be announced each half term, so don't forget to get your raffle ticket from Sue each time you walk!

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations for Nursery School children will take place during the week beginning Monday 27th March. All Keyworkers will



have evening appointments available on Wednesday 27th March, and some will have other times available during that week as well.

Unfortunately **we are unable to look after any children during the consultations** and it is generally better that children are not present during the meeting with your keyworker, as this can be distracting for parents and carers but also makes it difficult to talk about any more sensitive matters. So we ask that you **please find alternative arrangements for your children during this time.** Thank you.

These will be the last formal consultations of the school year and provide an opportunity to talk through your child's progress and discuss their "next steps".

For those children who are moving on to primary school at the end of the Summer, it will also be an opportunity to start the ball rolling for the smooth transition to their reception class and for parents to discuss any concerns that they might have about this coming change.

Please see your child's keyworker to make an appointment. Consultations for Up to 3s' children will take place during the Summer.



POWs

Talking of your child's progress, we hope you enjoy receiving your child's POW Update each half term, showing pictures of

the things they get up to in Nursery and the progress they are making. We know that we are only part of the picture of your child's development so we would love it if you could send your child's keyworker any pictures of things you get up to at home: perhaps a relative comes to visit, a trip to the farm, cooking or gardening together, or an activity they enjoy doing at home. Just reply to the email that your child's keyworker has sent you containing your child's POW.

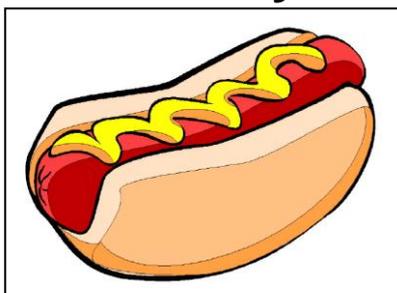
Final INSET Day

We have one final INSET date to come which will be Friday 22nd March. We will be developing our "de-escalation strategies", particularly for some of the



children we have with additional needs. However, these strategies are also really useful in recognising the signs of stress that can build in all children and finding ways to keep children calm before the situation escalates (parents and carers, we will happily pass on any top tips we gain!)

Please note that both the Up to 3s' and the Nursery School will be closed to ALL children on this day.



Sizzling Sausage Weekend

As you will all know, our Up to 3s' staff ran the "Sizzling Sausage" hot dog sale at Homebase during the first weekend of half term.

This was part of our fundraising towards a new

climbing frame in the Up to 3s' garden. We had incredible support from you all and would like to thank you so much for taking the time to come and support us and for everyone that donated so many lovely cakes for us to sell. We made over £500 during this weekend, which is a fantastic start to our fundraising and much more than we had hoped. A huge thanks to the Up to 3s' staff too for giving up time during their weekend. Look out for further Sizzling Sausage events coming up!

Toy Amnesty

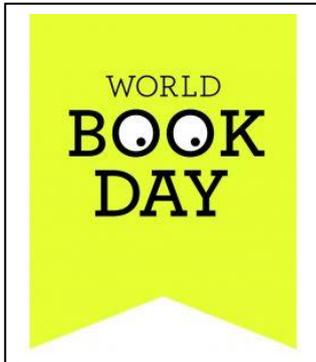
We are finding that many of our smaller toys are going missing (cars, little animals and other small, attractive bits and pieces). We have been made aware by



some parents that their children have “smuggled” these bits out of Nursery in their pockets or their bags (as children do!) You would be helping us enormously if parents and carers could be alert to this and check pockets etc. We are always very grateful if items that have made it home get returned, as it becomes very expensive to keep replenishing items that have gone missing.

To kick-start the process, we will be having a “Toy Amnesty, starting Monday 4th March. We will place a labelled up basket in the foyer outside Nursery and we ask if you could have a hunt around at home for any “bits” that you don't recognise and may have made their way home from Nursery. We will be reinforcing the message

at Nursery in group times. Thanks so much for your help – we hope to see a nice full basket!



World Book Day

The official date for this is Thursday 7th March, but as Wednesday is the day that most of our children come in we will be having our Book Day on Wednesday 6th March. To avoid too

much stress with costumes, we are asking all children to come in wearing their pyjamas and bring £1 to donate towards some new books in Nursery. We will have lots of cosy story areas and story props around the Nursery for the children to enjoy and the staff will be acting out a Traditional Tale for all the children at group time, which we hope they will love!

Red Nose Day – Fri 15th March

This is the next date in the term that is a 'dress up and donate' event. Again, we are keeping it simple for you: wear something red and bring a donation for the wonderful work that Comic Relief do.



Early Collection from Nursery

We are noticing a lot of parents and carers are coming in to pick up their children early in the afternoon sessions. We are aware that many of you have

children at Portfield School next door, who finish

earlier than us and the wait may feel frustrating. However, it is really disruptive for our children to be collected before the end of the session and they also miss out on Grouptime, which is a hugely important part of the Nursery day. This is a time where children form strong relationships with others in their group and where their Keyworker has planned a session that is tailored to the needs of the group, and is used to support individual children in each group where they may need additional support or extra challenge to ensure they make the best possible progress.

We understand that there are times when there is an urgent appointment or another good reason why you may need to collect your child, but where possible we would ask you to wait until the end of the session (it could be a good time to do the daily reading session with your older child....!)

Easter Holiday Care Deadline

Parents of Nursery School children who want to book holiday care for the Easter Holidays are reminded that forms need to be in by Wednesday 20th March in order for places to be guaranteed.



Easter Celebrations

As I mentioned at the beginning of the Newsletter, it won't be

long before we are in full “Easter mode”!

Our Nursery School Easter Celebrations will take place on Wednesday 3rd April. Children will parade round the Nursery Garden in their Easter bonnets, roll decorated eggs and then enjoy an Easter egg hunt in the garden.

Children arrive in Nursery at the normal time on this day, to be joined by parents and carers at either 11.00 am for morning and beginning of the week C group parents and carers, or 2.00 pm for afternoon and end of the week D group parents and carers. If your child attends all day every day (our 30 hour children) you can choose to attend either the morning or afternoon parade – just let your child’s keyworker know which you have chosen.

Materials for making Easter hats and bonnets will be available from the Nursery School lobby a couple of weeks beforehand - please take only what you need so there is enough to go round.

So just to recap, children will need to come into Nursery on Wednesday 3rd April with:



An Easter hat or bonnet



A decorated, named, hard-boiled egg for rolling (two if they are staying all day!)

The Up to 3s' Nursery will have their own informal Easter celebrations that week, where they will be rolling eggs and having an Easter Egg hunt, though this will be without parents.

Parents App & Facebook

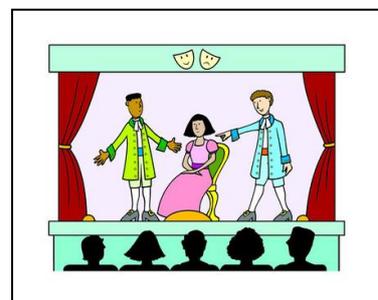
Have you downloaded our “ParentsApp” yet? Do you check and follow our Facebook page?



To help you keep up with all the events that go on in Nursery – dressing up days, fundraising events and INSET days we have a “Parents App” and a Facebook Page. Our Facebook page also shares photos of the fantastic learning that goes on in Nursery. If you have given us permission to use photos of your child you will sometimes see pictures of what they are up to. Download “OurSchoolsApp” on to your phone and select Chichester Nursery School and “like” our Facebook page if you haven’t already done so.

Rainbow Theatre

We are delighted to announce that we will be having a visit from the Rainbow Theatre again this year. Rainbow Theatre are a



small, travelling theatre company that perform plays in schools and Nurseries and involve children in their performances. We know from last year how much this benefits the children’s language, attention and listening skills, their

understanding of storytelling skills and their self-confidence. This year's visit will be on Wednesday 8th May and they will be performing 4 traditional tales: Little Red Riding Hood, The 3 Billy Goats Gruff, Goldilocks, and the 3 Little Pigs. It will benefit your child hugely if you read and retell these stories with them before the event. We will be doing the same in Nursery.



Bognor 10K Fundraising Event

On 19th May Chichester Nursery School will be entering 3 people to run in the Bognor 10K Race. This will be me (Ruth), Charlotte Radford (one of our Governors and also a parent in the Nursery) and Julie Oldman (another Nursery Parent). “Why would you do this?” I hear you ask. Well, it is no secret that, like many public services, funding for Schools and Nursery Schools like us is being reduced. We now have to work hard to raise the money we need for the Nursery. We plan to try and raise £4,200 to provide extra support for the many children that have additional needs. You can sponsor us at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/chichesternurseryschool> We will keep you updated about our campaign as the time draws nearer!



Families Aloud!

We are looking forward to our second Families Aloud of the year on Sunday 17th March. 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!) You will be able to see the kind of things your child gets up to during their days in Nursery, as well as get to know other parents. A hot dog brunch and fruit will be available plus a cuppa for adults and a cold drink for children. (We can't guarantee that Guinness will be provided unfortunately!)

We don't receive  funding to cover events like this and last time we didn't cover our costs, so please do bring a donation if you can. We hope to see lots of you there!



Summer Fair

It might seem a long way ahead, but we have already started making plans for our Summer Fair. After consulting parents and carers, we have decided to make a big change this year and hold the Fair on a Saturday! We hope that this will enable more families to stay for longer, as they don't have to worry about getting children home to bed. Our Fair will take place on **Saturday 22nd June** from 11am and we hope it will be even bigger and

better than usual. Our “Friends of Chichester Nursery School” will be planning the fair, but they will need your help, either to run stalls or to come and support us on the day, so please “save the date” and put it in your diary now!!

Dates for Your Diary

Weds 6 th March	<u>World Book Day</u> Dress up in your pyjamas and bring a £1 to help us buy some new books for Nursery
Fri 15 th March	<u>Red Nose Day</u> Wear something red and bring a donation for this fantastic cause.
Sun 17 th March	<u>Families Aloud! 10am-12pm</u> Come and play in Nursery with your child
Fri 22 nd March	Nursery School & Up to 3s’ closed for INSET Training
Tues 26 th March	Chicks Arrive!
Weds 27 th March	Parent Consultation Evening (Over 3s’ only) Further Consultations for some Keyworker Groups this Week
Weds 3 rd April	<u>Easter Celebration Day including Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Rolling</u> Parents & Carers join us from 11.00am for Morning and C Group Children and 2pm for Afternoon & D Group children
Mon 8 th April – Mon 22 nd April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Tues 23 rd April	Term Restarts – Summer Term Begins
Mon 6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday – Nursery School & Up to 3s’ Nursery Closed

Weds 8 th May	Rainbow Theatre Performing in Nursery
Sunday 19 th May	Bognor 10K Fundraising Event Please support us by donating through our justgiving account
Mon 27 th May-Fri 31 st May	NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM Pre-booked daycare only for all children plus Adventurers (15 hour stretched option)
Mon 3 rd June	Term Restarts after Half Term
Sat 22 nd June	Nursery School Summer Fair 11-2
Tues 23 rd July	Last day of Term & Leavers' Ceremonies
Mon 26 th - Fri 30 th Aug	Nursery shutdown week. Whole of Nursery closed!
Mon 2 nd Sept	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training
Tues 3 rd Sept	Nursery School closed for Home Visits. Up to 3s' and Care for Adventurers open
Weds 4 th Sept	Term restarts for all Nursery School Children