



Chichester
Nursery School

01243 642959

September/October 2019

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and Welcome/Welcome Back!

Welcome back to all our families returning after the summer break. We hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready for the new term. It's so lovely to see you all and wonderful to see the Nursery busy with children learning and having fun again!

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome all our new families joining the Nursery School. We hope the settling process is going well for your children and that you are beginning to feel part of our school.

Please do share any worries or concerns you have at any time – we think this is a wonderful place for children to be, but we know we don't always get it right so do talk to us. We look forward to getting to know all our parents and children individually.

To help keep track of everything that is going on there is a list of key dates on the last page, **including INSET days!**

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Staffing Updates
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Staffing Updates

As always, there are lots of staffing changes that go on over the Summer and so we have said some goodbyes and are looking forward to welcoming some new staff...



Firstly the goodbyes....**Sam Levy**, who was recently appointed in our Up to 3s'. Sadly Sam's Dad had a stroke and Sam has moved back to Hertfordshire to be with her parents. We wish her and her family all the best.

Polly Adamowicz, also from our Up to 3s' was on a temporary contract that ended in July, as she had been accepted on to a University course this Autumn to train as a Social Worker. We wish her lots of success in this vital and challenging career!

Bethan Lebbon, Keyworker to Yellow group children in the Up to 3s' is sadly leaving us in October to take up a role working as a Learning Mentor with older children at Chichester College, a role that will give her more time to be with her little boy. Although we will be so sad to see her go, we know that the Students at Chichester College will be very lucky to have her working with them. We don't know who will be taking over from Bethan just yet, but will let you know as soon as we have appointed someone.

And finally, **Trudy Acton**, who has worked in Nursery School for the last couple of years, is taking up a role that is closer to home and allows her to spend more time with her children.

So, as you can see, that leaves us with a few gaps to fill...

Firstly, a couple of “Welcome Back’s”: the lovely **Sarah Melville** spent the Summer in America, helping to run a Summer Camp. We’re delighted to have her back now, returning to her role in the Up to 3s’; time for some proper work now Sarah! 😊

Another familiar face for many will be **Megan Johnson**, who re-joins Nursery School, after a year’s absence. We have always said we hoped she’d be back one day and we’re delighted to announce she will be covering staff’s PPA time, as well as doing some work in the Up to 3s’.

We are also delighted to welcome a new Teacher to our Nursery School team. With Angie in her new role, leading our new SSC there was a gap left in Yellow C group in Nursery School and **Christina Allan** has been appointed to this role. She is a very experienced Teacher, who has also taught at one of the other Maintained Nursery Schools in Sussex, Boundstone Nursery School. Because of this, Christina is very familiar with our ethos and way of working and has already slotted in brilliantly to our team!

In the Up to 3s' **Emily Terry** has joined us as a Nursery Assistant. Emily has just finished her childcare studies at Chichester College and we are delighted she has chosen to start her career with us.

Noelia Martin-Benetiz will also be an unfamiliar face to you but she is going to be working with us as Bank Staff, based mostly in the Up to 3s' so we are pleased to welcome her too.

I'm sure you will all be familiar with **Vicky Barry**, who has been working with us as Bank Staff for a few months now. Vicky used to work as part of our Children's Centre, when it was run by the Nursery School so knows us really well. She has run many courses and groups for parents around care and interaction with babies, so she brings some great experience.

Finally, we are delighted to soon to welcoming a man to the Up to 3s' team! **Stanislas Antione** (Stan) will be joining us in a mixed role as Kitchen Assistant (the other half to the wonderful Karen, working at the end of the week) and a Nursery Assistant, working with the children in Nursery at the beginning of the week.

Please check the staff photo board in the corridor and in the Up to 3s' Nursery to put a face to these new names.

We hope all our new staff feel happy and welcome here!



Staff Training

We are very proud of our Up to 3s' Manager, **Charlotte Bedford**, who has finished her degree in Early Childhood Studies and graduated over the Summer. Congratulations to her

after 3 years of hard work!

Following in her footsteps, **Emma Brennan**, from the Up to 3s', has just enrolled to begin her Early Childhood Studies degree. We wish her success as she begins her studies.

Finally, we have several members of staff who are undertaking their Level 2 or 3 'Early Educator' qualification this year (the old NVQ qualification). We are delighted that so many staff are keen to develop their skills and wish **Sarah Davis, Penny Dean, Zena Fogden, Noellia Martin-Benetiz and Clare Senior** all the best as they undertake their courses.



Harvest Festival

The Nursery School will be holding its Harvest Festival celebrations on Wednesday 9th October. We will be donating our contributions to Chichester

Food Bank. A table will be set up in the Nursery lobby from Monday 30th September for your

donations. Tins and packets are ideal as these last longer.

Friends of Chichester Nursery School

The Friends of Chichester Nursery School helped raise lots of funds for us last year through our Christmas & Summer Fairs 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!



Voluntary Contributions

If you are new to the Nursery, you will have been given an envelope with all your induction paperwork that asks for a £10 voluntary contribution. It is no secret these days that schools like ours have had our budgets

reduced for several years now. Your contributions, which are entirely voluntary, help fund the extra things that we provide for your children, such as trips, cooking activities and special visitors to the Nursery. We ask for these donations once a term and we do appreciate it greatly if you are able to support us in this way.

Amazon Wishlist

This is another way you can help us. Often parents are keen to buy things to support the Nursery



but don't know where to start. To help with this we have created a 'wishlist' of things we would appreciate, which cover a range of prices, so hopefully there is something for all budgets. If you are interested in helping us in this way, go to

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2KTA78KQ7VJMR?ref=wl_share



Nursery Clothing

Do remember to bring jumpers and coats (preferably waterproof) and sturdy shoes for outdoor play as the weather turns cooler. Also, please bring a pair of named wellies for your

child – splashing in the huge puddles we get in our garden is so much fun!

As much as we encourage children to look after their belongings and put them on their peg, in a big

and busy Nursery things do go astray! It would help us enormously if you can label your child's clothing. You don't need to buy fancy labels – a permanent marker or biro works just as well!

Toileting Workshop

We know that for many parents and carers the toilet training process can be quite an ordeal and for some people, it's difficult

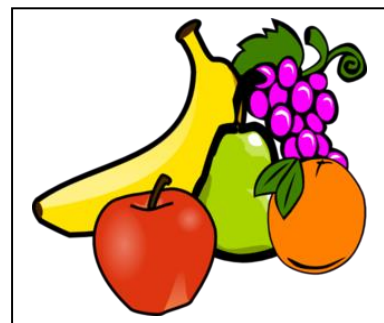


to know where to start. If your child is 2 or showing signs that they are ready to start the toilet training process, come along to one of our toilet training workshops.

Our first session is on Monday 21st October, at either 10am or 1pm and will be run by Tina, one of our Nursery Assistants, who has had many years' experience supporting the toilet training process. Sign up at the office if you're interested, or speak to Charlotte, Clare or myself for more information.

Fruit Donations

During the session at Nursery the children enjoy fruit, water and milk as snacks.



To enable us to provide snacks for the children we ask if parents could donate **two** pieces of fruit per week. Your child's keyworker will have a basket for collecting the fruit at the beginning of each session.

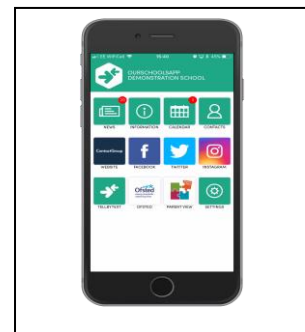


October Half-term Holiday Care Deadline

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 Monday 23rd September in order for places to be guaranteed.

Parent App

We are always looking for ways to make our communication with parents and carers as easy as possible so if you haven't already, I encourage you to download our App



for parents on your phone. You will be able to receive updates and reminders about events in Nursery, calendar dates, link to our Facebook page and much more! Go to <https://www.ourschoolsapp.com/m/#/add-school> and type in our postcode PO19 7AB and ensure you select 'Chichester Nursery School' **NOT** the Children & Family Centre!



Use of Mobile Phones

Talking of mobile phones, you may not be aware that we have a "no mobile phones" policy in Nursery School and the Up to 3s'. As you can imagine, this is for Child Protection reasons.

Toys From Home

Another “no-no” I’m afraid! Many children like to bring toys from home to Nursery but we must insist that children **do not** do this (even to keep in their



bags!) These things easily get lost or taken by other children and it causes a great deal of upset! This applies to children in both the Up to 3s’ and Nursery School.



Open Door Policy

Your child’s keyworker always tries to give feedback from time to time about your child’s learning and care, but as the groups fill up feedback at the beginning

and end of sessions becomes harder. However, staff are always available to talk through your child’s progress or any concerns you may have, though it may be necessary to arrange a mutually convenient time for this to happen. Clare and Charlotte and I (the Senior Leadership Team) also operate an ‘open door’ policy, and you are most welcome to ask for a more confidential discussion 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 4th December for Nursery School children
- Wednesday 11th December for Up to 3s' children

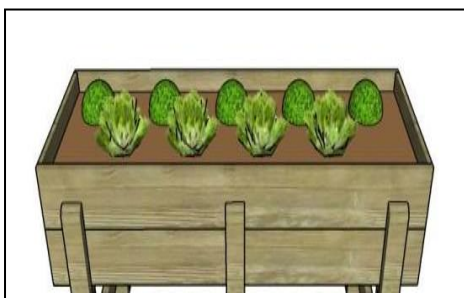
In addition, children receive a written report soon after their 2nd birthday in the Up to 3s' Nursery and just before they go to primary school if they are in Nursery School.

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.



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 outside the front of Nursery? We are offering families the chance to sponsor a planter for a term and have your name on a sign in your chosen planter. We have a waterbutt outside the front of Nursery and watering cans/basic

gardening tools each day just inside the automatic doors at the entrance to the building, which you can use to tend to your 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.

Families Aloud!

We are looking forward to our first Families Aloud session of the new school year on Sunday 20th October. For parents who are not familiar with Families Aloud, 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!)

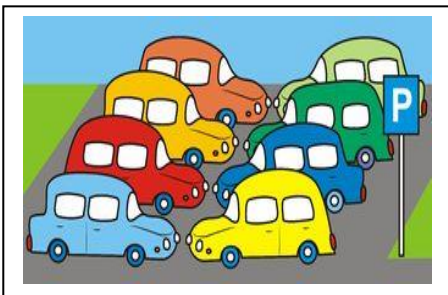


You will be able to see the kind of things your child gets up to during their days in Nursery and have the chance to enjoy a hot-dog and cuppa brunch. This is also a great chance to get to know other parents better. We hope to see lots of you there!



Clothing Bank

You may have noticed that we have a clothing bank on site. This takes donations of not only clothes, but books, shoes, towels, DVD's and more. In addition to raising money for a local charity, Rockinghorse, which supports sick and disadvantaged children, we also get some money on each collection; the more you donate, the more money we and this wonderful charity receive!



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:

- Drive at a slow speed
- **Park only in designated spaces**

Our disabled bays are needed by several parents who are either disabled themselves or have children with additional needs so it is really important that these are kept clear at all times!

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

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

 *If you choose to walk to Nursery School from home you can take part in our termly Walk to School Draw and have the chance of winning a Sainsbury's voucher. Sue will be giving out raffle tickets to those of you who have walked just before drop-off time in the mornings and afternoons, or if you're a bit later arriving you can collect your raffle ticket from whoever is 'manning the doors' each day.* 

Opening Days Over the Christmas and New Year period

Christmas & New Year closures are always a little complicated, so do pay close attention to the diary dates overleaf:

Dates for Your Diary

Weds 9 th October	<u>Harvest Festival</u> (children only) Donations of tins and other non-perishable food very welcome
Sun 20 th October	<u>Families Aloud</u> Come along and play in Nursery with your child and enjoy a hot dog brunch and a cuppa. Bring the family, friends and neighbours
Mon 21 st October	<u>Toileting Workshop for Parents and Carers</u> 10am and 1pm. If your child is 2 years old or you are thinking of starting the toilet training process, come along to this short workshop, led by Tina, one of our Nursery Assistants. Find out some Top Tips, get a free 'toileting pack' and share your experiences with other parents.
Mon 28 th – Fri 1 st November	NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM (pre-booked daycare only for all children)
Mon 4 th & Tues 5 th November	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for First Aid INSET Training
Weds 27 th November	<u>Nursery School Taster Session for Spring Term New Starters</u> , 4.00-5.30pm (Including children transferring from the Up to 3s')
Weds 4 th December	<u>Nursery School Parent Consultations</u> 4.30-8pm Please do not bring children – we do not have childcare available for them.
Weds 11 th December	<u>Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u> Please do not bring children – we do not have childcare available for them.
Mon 16 th December	<u>Nursery School Christmas Party Day</u> Please note: Morning / All Day children not in until 10am on this day Afternoon children not in until 1.45pm on this day

Wed 18 th December	<p><u>Christmas Songs Around the Tree</u> with parents: 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>
Friday 20 th December	<p><u>Last day of Autumn Term</u> for Nursery School children</p>
Mon 23 rd December	<p><u>Up to 3s' Christmas Party and last day before Christmas break</u> (pre-booked daycare only for all children)</p>
Thurs 2 nd January	<p><u>Up to 3s' Reopens</u> (pre-booked daycare only for all children)</p>
Mon 6 th January	<p>Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training</p>
Tues 7 th January	<p><u>Nursery School closed for Home Visits</u> (Up to 3s' open for children who are not funded & pre-booked daycare only for all children)</p>
Weds 8 th January	<p>Nursery School and Up to 3s' open again</p>