



Chichester  
Nursery School

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# November/December 2019

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after half term. We hope those of you that had your children at home had a fantastic week.

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 all of that later!

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Staffing Updates
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- Fareshare & Tea Menus
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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.



Many of the Up to 3s' parents will have met **Shola Attryde and Stan Antoine**, who both joined us just before half term. Shola will be looking after some of the children in Yellow Group, alongside Kirsty and Stan has a double role, working as a Nursery Assistant, supporting the children on a Tuesday and Wednesday in the

Up to 3s' and then taking charge of the Nursery kitchen and all the food preparation on a Thursday and Friday.

We are also pleased to welcome Karen Whittington, from Bognor Nursery School, who joined the Up to 3s' team at the beginning of November. We hope all our new staff settle in quickly and soon feel part of the team!



### **Harvest Festival**

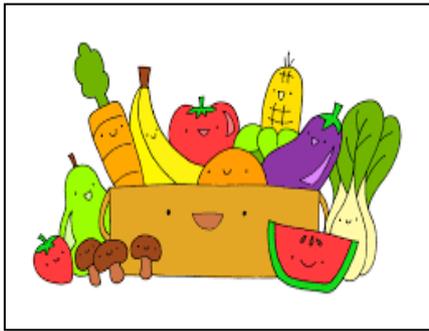
The Nursery School enjoyed our Harvest Festival celebrations last month. Mike Milmine, the Curate from St Pancras Church in Chichester came to join our celebrations, talked to us about the food that we grow and enjoyed singing some songs with us. Thank you so much to everyone who so generously donated food, we were quite overwhelmed by the amount you gave! Chichester Food Bank were really appreciative of all the food you contributed, which will help so many families!

### **Food Bank Vouchers**

Did you know that the Nursery holds Food Bank Vouchers! We know that it doesn't take much for a family to suddenly find themselves struggling, particularly with benefit changes, Universal Credit and with Christmas



coming up, things can get tough. 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.



### **Fareshare & Tea Menus**

You may know that we are signed up with the Charity 'Fareshare' that collect excess food from supermarkets and distribute it to local organisations to use. This has provided us with an opportunity to be a little more creative in our provision of teas and snacks for the children in Nursery School and the Up to 3s'. However, this does mean that the tea menu advertised may not actually correspond with what the children have had that day, as we have adapted the menu to use the ingredients that have come in.

Please rest assured that we are still ensuring children are receiving a balanced diet throughout the day, so for example, if they have had pasta at lunchtime, we would not be giving them pasta again for tea. To ensure we keep parents informed we will be displaying a handwritten notice on the Up to 3s' message board and the main School noticeboard in the Nursery corridor sharing what was for tea on each day. We hope you find this helpful. Please come and speak to me or Charlotte if you have any queries about this.



## Wellies

If you haven't already done so please bring a pair of named wellies for your child which we can keep in their group box outside – splashing in the huge puddles we get in our garden is so much fun!

## Bad Weather Announcements

Talking of weather, as the winter begins to approach, please be aware that in the event of snow (fingers crossed!) we will share any news about closure or partial closures on our Facebook page, through our Parent App and on the Spirit FM website/radio announcements.

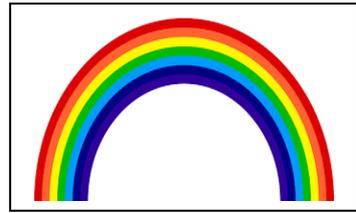


## Wednesday Pick Ups

We are very grateful to parents and carers who have made arrangements to collect their children at 5pm on Wednesdays. 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 are still losing approximately 15 minutes of vital staff meeting time each week, due to late collections! Please be aware that parents who pick up even 5 minutes late will be charged.

## **Chichester Nursery School SSC**

This term finally sees the launch of one of the most exciting things to happen to Chichester Nursery



in a long time. After half term we finally opened the doors of our Special Support Centre (SSC)! We have long had a reputation for supporting children with additional needs and the provision of a Special Support Centre allows us to do this, with a little more specialist provision in place.

We are delighted that Angie (formerly Yellow C Group Keyworker and our Senco) will be leading our SSC Unit, working with Natasha Kokina and Clare Senior. In addition, we will receive additional support from a dedicated Speech & Language Therapist, Jennifer Williams.

Our SSC is in place to support children with Speech & Language and Social Communication difficulties. Children attending the SSC will register in the SSC Group Room (attached to the Rainbow Room) and will have their Group time in there, plus additional therapy sessions, as needed. However, it is absolutely fundamental to our values that these children are a full part of Nursery School and are integrated in to the Nursery for the majority of their session. Angie will be the Keyworker for these children and they will be known as 'Rainbow Group'.

Meanwhile, plans are underway to embark on a major fundraising project to provide a Sensory Garden next to the Rainbow Room. Watch this space for updates...

We are delighted to be recognised in this way for the excellent support we provide for children with additional needs and look forward to being able to offer more specialist provision with our SSC in place. If you have any queries about the SSC please come and speak to me.



### **‘Ditch the Dummy!’**

Whilst on the subject of speech and language, many children that are in Nursery and are at the age where they are talking still come to Nursery with a dummy. We know this can be a lovely comfort for children but it can be really detrimental to their speech and language development so we ask that children (not babies) do not have a dummy when they are coming to Nursery. There are many top tips for reducing and giving up dummy usage, which any of our staff would be happy to share with you. We also promote a ‘Books for Dummies’ scheme, where your child can bring their dummies to Nursery and exchange them for a book of their choice. Just ask your child’s Keyworker!

## Friends of Chichester Nursery School

The Friends of Chichester Nursery School are our team of volunteers who help organise

fundraising events for the Nursery. They already have some great ideas underway for our Christmas Fair but we know that many hands make light work and so we would love to recruit some new parents to join the group.



The next meeting will take place mid November (meetings are normally on a Friday morning). Come and speak to Ruth, Clare or Charlotte if you are interested in coming along – a cuppa and biscuits are provided!



### Photographs

As you will have read in the recent letter that came out, we have a photography company coming in on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November.** Just to reiterate that these will be natural photos taken of your child as they are absorbed in their play. In the past these have been really beautiful pictures, but please rest assured, there is absolutely no pressure to purchase the pictures! If your child does not normally come in on that day you can book them in for a session in advance if you wish. Please remember no special outfits and unfortunately siblings cannot be accommodated.

## **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 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**November** in order for places to be guaranteed.



## **Children in Need**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November is Children in Need day. Come 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.

## **Keep us Up to Date**

Sometimes we find parents have changed their phone number, address or other contact details but don't remember to update us. This can cause us problems if we are trying to get in touch with you, particularly if your child is unwell. Please come and let the office know if any of your contact details have changed. Thank you.





## Parent App

We recently conducted a Survey on Facebook about our Parent App, which revealed that not many people are using it. We decided not to cancel our contract this year and aim to promote it to parents to try and get more people using it. This is a great way for us to keep in touch with you and communicate important events and messages.

So why not give it a go? 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!

Let us know what you think and if there’s anything else you would like to see on the App.

## Parent Consultations

This evening is coming up very soon now and it is a great chance to have a catch up with your child’s Keyworker and hear about their progress in Nursery.



Both the Over 3s' and Up to 3s' will be having their Parent Consultations on Wednesday 11th December.

**We do ask that you make arrangements to ensure your children are looked after on that night, as regrettably we are unable to accommodate children.** We hope that by having consultations on the same evening that childcare arrangements are easier to make for parents and carers.

The Up to 3s' have a more informal evening this term with drinks and nibbles. As well as finding out how your child is progressing, it is a great opportunity to meet some of the new staff and get to know them a little better.

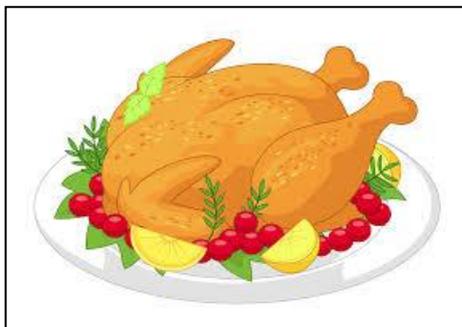
Sign up lists will be available for the Over 3s' a couple of weeks beforehand – you should find them near your child's group room. Parents in Hannah's group will have an additional morning session for parents to book appointments.

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!

# CHRISTMAS



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



## Nursery Christmas Lunch

For children that normally stay for lunch, we will be having a 'Christmas Dinner' for them on **Weds 11<sup>th</sup> December.**

There is nothing extra parents or carers need to do for this. We will make the occasion special for them with decorated tables and crackers and they can enjoy their roast turkey (or alternative for children with different dietary requirements).

## Christmas Jumper Day

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December** is our 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Christmas tree 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 Fair (more details to follow later)

Morning Songs around the tree will start at 11.00 for morning children and children in Christina'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 **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Children will take part in games, dancing, enjoy a visit



from the much-loved Malcom-the-Magician and have a party lunch/tea. They will also have a visit from Father Christmas.

If your child doesn't normally attend on this day because they are in an 'end of the week' place, please join us for the afternoon session.

*Because a 3 hour session is too long for a party, school on the 16th 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**

On **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**, from 2pm-4pm we will be having a 'Singing Around the Christmas Tree' session for **all**

**Up to 3s' children and their parents/carers** to take part in, plus we're hoping for a visit from Santa! All children and their parents/carers are invited to this, whether or not they usually attend on this day. More details to come nearer the time.

***Please note this will be our last day open before Christmas!***

## **Gift wrapping—Help wanted**

Can you keep a secret?  
Are you available in the morning or afternoon of **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November or Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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

<p>Fri 15<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p><u>Children In Need</u> Wear spots and bring a donation</p>
<p>Tues 26<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p><u>Photographs Being Taken in Nursery</u> These will be taken naturally, whilst the children play. No siblings or special outfits please.</p>
<p>Weds 27<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p><u>Photographs Being Taken in Nursery</u> These will be taken naturally, whilst the children play. No siblings or special outfits please.</p>
<p>Fri 29<sup>th</sup> November</p>	<p><u>Present Wrapping</u> (am/pm after dropping children off) Parent Volunteers needed to help wrap children's Christmas presents</p>
<p>Fri 6<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p><u>Present Wrapping</u> (am/pm after dropping children off) Parent Volunteers needed to help wrap children's Christmas presents</p>
<p>Weds 11<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p><u>Christmas Dinner for Lunchtime Children</u></p>
<p>Weds 11<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p><u>Parent Consultation Evening (Nursery School &amp; Up to 3s')</u> No children please</p>
<p>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> December</p>	<p><u>Christmas Songs Around the Tree with parents:</u> 11am for morning and beginning of the week C group children 2pm 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  <u>Nursery Christmas Fair</u> 10am- 3pm (in the main area of the Children's Centre)</p>

Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Christmas Jumper Day</u> Wear your favourite festive jumper and bring a donation for Save the Children
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Nursery School Christmas Parties</u> <b>PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN UNTIL 10am for the morning party &amp; 1.45pm for the afternoon</b>
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Last Day of Term for Nursery School Children and Up to 3s' funded children</u>
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> 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, 2-4pm) (pre-booked holiday care only for Nursery School children)
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	<u>Up to 3s' Reopens</u> Non-funded children and pre-booked holiday care only
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Nursery School &amp; Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training</b>
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> January	<u>Nursery School Closed for Home Visits</u> (Up to 3' Open & pre-booked holiday only)
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Nursery School and Up to 3s' open again for all children
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> February	<u>Families Aloud</u> 10am-12pm Bring the whole family and enjoy time playing together in Nursery, with a free hot dog, cuppa and fruit.
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<u>Nursery School Half-Term</u> Pre-booked holiday care available