



Chichester  
Nursery School

01243 642959

# January/February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Hello and Welcome/Welcome Back!**

Welcome back to all our families after the Christmas Holidays. We hope you had a lovely break and very special Christmas celebrations. We also would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the families that are new to the Nursery School. We hope that your children settle quickly and you all feel very welcome in 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:

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- Friends of Chichester Nursery School
- Christmas Thank-You's
- Clothing Bank
- Nursery Clothing
- Bad Weather Announcements
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- Final INSET Day
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- Families Aloud
- Dates for your Diary **(including closure dates)**

## Staffing Updates

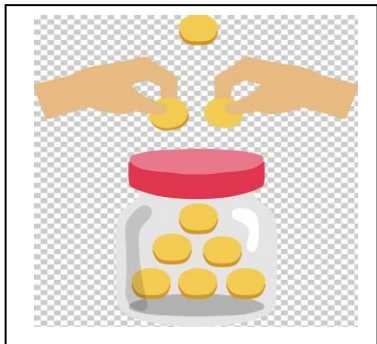
It's not often that I get to share really wonderful news in this section, but I am delighted to announce that Charlotte Bedford, our Up to 3s' Manager is pregnant! Anyone



who knows Charlotte will know what an amazing Mummy she will be and I am sure you will join me in congratulating her and Darren on this exciting news!

Charlotte's baby is due at the end of May but she plans to start her Maternity Leave in April. We are aiming to recruit someone for her maternity cover to start around February half term so that they have the opportunity to have a really good handover period. We will let you know when we have more news.

Sue wishes to thank everyone so much for their cards, gifts and good wishes at the end of last term. She felt she was given a great send off and was made to feel very appreciated. We will be interviewing for the Administration Assistant position shortly and look forward to updating you when we have some more news.



## **Friends of Chichester Nursery School**

We would like to say a big thank you to the “Friends of Chichester Nursery School” who organised and ran our Christmas Fair and successfully raised over £250. All our fundraising is currently going towards the Up to 3s’ new climbing frame project, and in Nursery School we will be funding some of the improvements we are making to our environment, such as new furniture and rugs to create a cosier, calmer and more inviting space for our children.



## **Christmas Thank-You's**

More thank-you's and this time to all our parents and carers. A huge thanks from all the staff for all your generosity over the Christmas period: for all your donations of party food and bits that enabled the children to have a wonderful Christmas Party! And finally for the lovely cards and thoughtful gifts you bought for us as staff – we definitely got through the end of term fuelled by sugar!

## Clothing Bank

Are you needing to have a post-Christmas clear-out? We can help you! Our clothing bank, located on the roundabout in our car park 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!

## Nursery Clothing

Do remember to send your children in with warm jumpers and coats (preferably waterproof) and sturdy shoes for outdoor play in this colder and wet weather.



Also, please bring a pair of named wellies for your child to keep in their group welly box in the garden – 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 could label your child's clothing. You don't need to buy fancy labels – a permanent marker or biro works just as well!



## **Bad Weather Announcements**

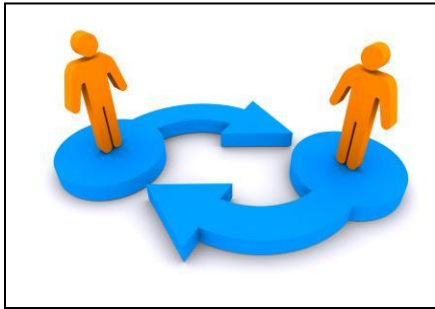
Talking of weather, as the winter begins to approach please be aware that in the event of snow (fingers crossed!) we will share any news about closure or partial closures on our Facebook page, through our Parent App and on the Spirit FM website/radio announcements.

## **Toileting Workshop**

We held a very successful toilet training workshop for parents last term and have the next one coming up on 12<sup>th</sup> February.



We know 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 the workshops, either at 10am or 1pm. The workshops 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.



## **Staffing Swaps**

Don't be surprised if you see staff members in 'the wrong' part of Nursery for them in the near future! As part of our focus on improving the transition experience for children moving from the Up to 3s' to Nursery School and to develop staff's skills with all age-groups, we are undertaking staffing swaps this term, where every staff member from Nursery School will swap with someone from the Up to 3s' for a day. We have tried to arrange this so there is minimal disruption and impact on the children. We do hope it will be beneficial all round.

## **Music and Theatre Workshops**

We have some exciting opportunities arranged for the Nursery School children over the next few months. The first of

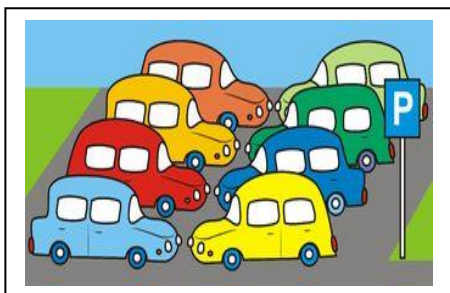


these is a drumming workshop, which will be taking place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This is being kindly provided by a very talented parent. We can't wait to see the children's response!

Next we are hoping to organise a global music workshop. We hope this will give children a taste of music that is quite different to what they are used to and a chance to explore some other

cultures! We will let you know when a date has been confirmed.

Finally, just after the Easter Holidays, we have the Rainbow Theatre returning to perform some of our best-loved Fairy Tales for the children in Nursery School and some of the eldest Up to 3s' children. This was so popular last year and had a huge impact on the children's knowledge and enjoyment of these stories. We will update you nearer the time about which ones we will be focussing on so you can be reading them in preparation with your child.



### **Car Park**

As you will know, our car park is not large and there are certainly not enough spaces for everyone to park at drop off and pick up times. Recently the car park has become very dangerous and for the safety of our children, in particular, we ask that you park only in designated spaces. Many parents and carers park on the roundabout, along the kerbs and in places that aren't parking spaces. This creates a very dangerous and congested car park, putting children at risk from drivers not seeing them and, as we have experienced at times, has caused delays and difficulties in fire engines or ambulances being able to get through in an emergency!

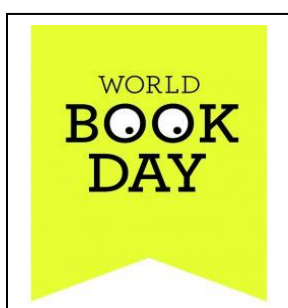


In addition, our disabled bays are needed by an increasing number of parents who are either disabled themselves or have children with additional needs and it presents a great difficulty when people park in them who are not entitled to do so. We do ask that these are kept clear at all times if you do not have a Disabled Blue Badge or a special Nursery Disabled Badge!

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 monthly Walk to School Draw and have the chance of winning a £20 Amazon, Sainsbury or Tesco voucher for your child – remember to collect your raffle ticket each day that you walk. ★



### **World Book Day**

We will be celebrating World Book Day in Nursery on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020**. We would love children to come to Nursery in their pyjamas, along with their favourite story and cuddly bedtime toy.

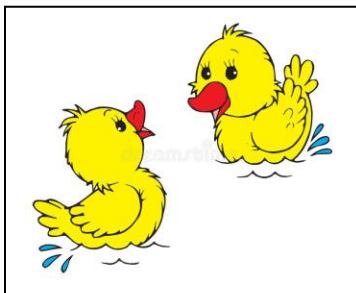
Please do make sure you put your child's name in their book and also label their toy – we would hate for any precious items to go missing!

## **Sport Relief**

This is the term of 'special events' and hot on the heels of World Book Day comes Sport Relief this year. We will be marking this in Nursery



on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**. Come and join your child at Grouptime for a sponsored obstacle walk around the Nursery garden. Sporty gear is optional!

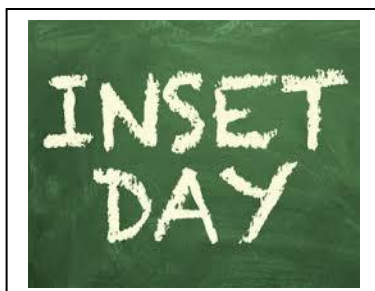


## **Ducklings!**

We are very excited to announce that we will be having some eggs again on 24<sup>th</sup> March, which will hopefully hatch in to a gorgeous batch of little ducklings! We know how much the annual arrival of our chicks or ducklings are loved by all (possibly even more by the parents than the children!) and they are such a great source of learning and wonder for the children and we will be asking parents if they could donate a small amount to help cover the cost, which I believe is £270 this year. This works out as about £1.50 per family. We would be grateful for whatever you can afford to help us provide this special experience for the children.

## February Half-term Holiday Care Deadline

Parents of Nursery School children who want to book holiday care for the February half-term are reminded that forms need to be in by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January** in order to gain a space. Unfortunately we cannot offer spaces to anyone booking after this date, as it becomes very difficult to arrange staffing.



## Final INSET Day of the Year

Just to remind parents that our last INSET Day this year will be **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July**. Please note that both the Up to 3s' and the Nursery School will be closed to ALL children on this day.

## Parents App & Facebook

It isn't easy keeping up with all the events that go on in Nursery – dressing up days, fundraising events and INSET days and we know many parents and carers found it hard to keep track of when their children were due to come back after Christmas. If you download our “Parents App” and / or “like” and follow our Facebook Page they will help keep you



informed about what is happening when. 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.



### **Use of Mobile Phones**

Having encouraged you to download our App on your phone, please 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. It is also so lovely for your child to have your full attention as they leave you to come to Nursery and when you arrive to pick them up again, so we would encourage you to keep your phone in your pocket or bag whilst you are with your child in the building.

### **Families Aloud!**

Our next ‘Families Aloud’ is just around the corner. 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!) Do come along on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February** and 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 better. A hot dog brunch and fruit will be available plus a cuppa for adults and a cold drink for children.

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

## Dates for Your Diary

Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	<u>Drumming Workshop (during am &amp; pm sessions)</u> The children will be watching, listening to and joining in with the music in this workshop
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> February	<u>Families Aloud! 10am-12pm</u> Come and play in Nursery with your child and enjoy a hotdog brunch!
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM</b> Pre-booked daycare only for all children plus Adventurers (15 hour stretched option)
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>World Book Day</u> Come dressed in pyjamas and bring your favourite book and cuddly bedtime toy
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>Sport Relief</u> Join your child for an obstacle course walk around the garden
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Duckling Eggs Arrive!
Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<u>Easter Celebration Day with Easter Bonnet Parade and Egg Rolling</u> ( <i>more information to follow in the March/April Newsletter</i> ) Parents & Carers join us from 11.00am for Morning and C Group Children and 2pm for Afternoon & D Group children (30 hours children let your keyworker know which session you will be attending)
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> April – Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Term Restarts – Summer Term Begins
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> May	May Day Bank Holiday – Nursery School & Up to 3s' Nursery Closed
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM</b> Pre-booked daycare only for all children plus Adventurers (15 hour stretched option)
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Term & Leavers' Ceremonies
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> July	<b><u>INSET DAY</u></b> – Up to 3s' and Nursery School Closed