



Chichester  
Nursery School

01243 642959

# December 2020

Newsletters

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are, on the threshold of December! How have we got to December already?

The build up to Christmas is normally one of the most exciting times in Nursery and we are determined that, although things are going to have to be done differently this year, we will still be able to share some wonderful 'Christmassy' experiences with the children that they will remember... more about all of that later!

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Thank you from us all!
- Staffing Updates
- Food Bank Vouchers
- Socks
- SSC
- 'Ditch the Dummy!'



- Parent Workshops
- Children in Need
- Keep Us Up to Date
- Help Us Keep You Up to Date
- Parent Consultations
- THE CHRISTMAS SECTION, to include:
  - Christmas Dinner day
  - Christmas Jumper day
  - Nursery School Christmas party
  - Up to 3s' Christmas Celebrations
- Opening Dates Over the Christmas and New Year Period
- Dates for your Diary **(including closure dates)**

## **Thank You From us All!**

As 2020 draws to a close – a difficult year for everyone – I would like to take the opportunity to



thank you all for your support and patience as we have tried out new ways of working. We dearly wish we were able to have parents and carers dropping off in Nursery again and enjoy the opportunities this provided for better communication and building stronger relationships.

We do appreciate that it isn't easy for those of you who are waiting out in the cold and the rain in these winter months so thank you to you all for

putting up with this and for remembering to keep your distance from one another. Finally, thank you to those of you who do wear a mask when dropping off or picking up, as we requested recently, it really does help our staff feel safer when trying to get close enough to have those face-to-face conversations.



## **Staffing Updates**

We know these are turbulent times for us all and we have had some goodbyes to say to a few staff members recently:

Firstly, Sue Gardner, our Admin Assistant (who replaced our previous Sue) had to leave her post, for health reasons. We wish her all the best and know she will be keeping up with us from afar and staying in touch. Many of you will know Teresa, who is also our Clerk to Governors, and has provided cover for us in the office previously. She has kindly agreed to cover in the office for us again until we advertise the post.

At the end of this term we will be saying a fond farewell to Emily, who works in the Up to 3s'. Due to a reduction in the number of children we are taking in the Up to 3s', Emily's role will not be filled.

We also said goodbye to Stan, our part-time Kitchen Assistant in the Up to 3s' recently, as he took up a job with full-time hours.

The Up to 3s' team have done an amazing job of manning the kitchen at the end of the week whilst the post has been vacant and we are looking forward to welcoming another Claire to our team soon. Claire Evans will be joining our Up to 3s' team as our Kitchen Assistant on Thursdays and Fridays.

## **Food Bank Vouchers & Food Parcels**

We know how difficult things are for families at the moment and with Christmas coming up, many families are finding

it even harder to manage than ever. If you do need an extra bit of help at the moment, do let us know and we can provide foodbank vouchers. You can email your child's Keyworker, message the Facebook page or catch me, Clare, or Abbie.

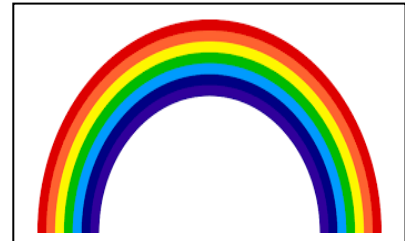


## **Socks**

Children often need a change of socks rather than a complete outfit change when they come in from playing in the garden and we get through them at an alarming rate.

If anyone has any outgrown socks that they could donate to our spare socks drawer, we would be very grateful. You can also help by putting extra spare socks in your child's bag.

## **Chichester Nursery School SSC**



Last month saw the 1 Year Anniversary of the opening of our SSC (Special Support Centre). After a slow start, with just a handful of children, our reputation for supporting children with additional needs has quickly grown and we are delighted to say that in January our SSC will be full! It has been so exciting to watch the fantastic progress our SSC children make in their language and social and communication skills.

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



### **‘Ditch the Dummy!’**

Whilst on the subject of speech and language, many children who 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 come 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!

## **Parent Workshops**

We all know parenting isn't easy! Many of you chat to us for advice/tips about handling a range of different situations and we all know that the best outcomes for children occur when home and Nursery work together. So for this reason we have decided to put together some of our 'top tips' and advice in the form of some 'Parent Workshops'.



As we can't have parents in as planned, we will be sharing some of our workshops online on our Facebook page.

The first of the topics we will be covering include:

- our already popular *'Toileting' course*,
- *'Top Tips for an Easier Life'*, and
- *'Bucket Time - Supporting Children's Language & Attention Skills'*



These will be freely available for all parents/carers to access and will also provide the opportunity to ask questions of our staff via messaging.

Keep your eyes peeled on Facebook and our ParentApp for more information and dates in the Spring...

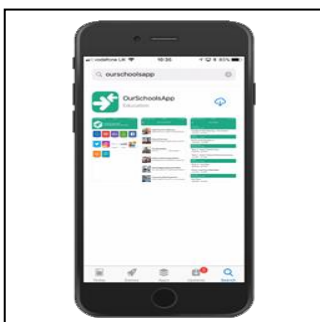


### **Children in Need**

A huge thank you to everyone who donated pennies for Children in Need day. Thanks to you we raised **£77.47** to help many children facing difficulties or disadvantage.

### **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 let your child's Keyworker know or email [office@chichesternursery.org](mailto:office@chichesternursery.org) if any of your contact details have changed. Thank you.



### **Help Us to Keep You Up to Date!**

The main way we communicate information about events and message to parents at the moment is via our Facebook page.

You may not know that you can access our Facebook page, even if you are not signed up to Facebook, so do take a look – there are always lots of lovely photos to see of the things your children get up to in Nursery.



We also have a 'Parent App', which you can access on your Smartphone.



Just download "Our Schools App" 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!

## **Parent Consultations**

Thank you so much to all of you who participated in a Consultation with your child's Keyworker recently in some form or other.



We hope that, despite a few technical hitches here and there, you found it a valuable opportunity to catch up and hear about your child's progress in Nursery.



# CHRISTMAS



Here comes the Christmas section... this will cover everything you need to know about our Christmas events and activities:



## Christmas Cards

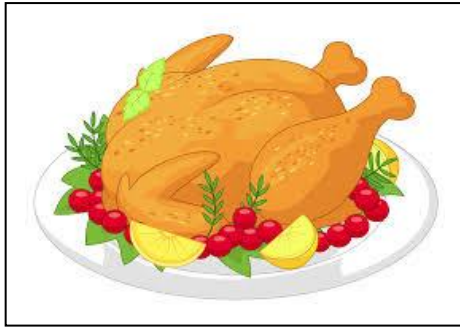
We know how much the children love to give and receive Christmas cards each year and this will still be able to happen this year, but in a slightly different way.

From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December our Christmas post boxes will be placed outside the side door entrance to Nursery for the Over 3s' children and by the Up to 3s' Nursery entrance.



Children can post cards for their friends in the relevant post box and the cards will be collected each day, quarantined for 72 hours and then each batch given out to the children to take home.

Please note, to ensure children are still able to receive all their cards before the end of term, **last posting dates for Christmas will be Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December**



## Nursery Christmas Lunch

For children that normally stay for lunch, we will be having a 'Christmas Dinner' for them on **Wednesday 16<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.

## Christmas Jumper Day

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** is also our Christmas Jumper Day – come into Nursery wearing yours. You can make a contribution in buckets that will



be placed outside Nursery to the 'Save the Children' fund, which helps 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 for a jumper that will be utterly unique!

## Nursery School Christmas Party

The Nursery School Christmas party will take place on the morning of **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** – the last day of term.



Children will take part in games, dancing and will enjoy a special 'play' put on by our talented staff members, followed by a party lunch. We also believe Father Christmas may stop by and peek in through the windows to wave at the children – we have told him he can't come in to the Nursery building this year, but I'm sure he'll find a way to deliver his presents!

*As you can imagine, a 3 hour session is too long for a party, so Nursery on the 18th will start later than usual that day, at **10.00 a.m***

**Please do not bring your child to Nursery until 10 am when 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 packaged party food for the Christmas party. Lists will be displayed on the Nursery doors very shortly. Please sign up if you can!



## **Up to 3s' Christmas Celebrations**

The Up to 3s' all attend on different days and this year we won't be able to have an event with all the children

together and their parents/carers. However, we are determined that the Up to 3s' will still have some lovely Christmas celebrations.

This year, we have planned a whole week of Christmassy activities, with baking and Christmas decoration making, Christmas songs, delicious festive snacks and some Christmas games, such as pass the parcel. This will mean that every child, no matter what day they attend will be sure to experience some Christmas fun in Nursery!

### **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.

*We wish all our children and their families a very Happy Christmas and New Year!*



## Dates for Your Diary

Tues 1 <sup>st</sup> December	<u>Christmas Postboxes Out</u> Postboxes available for all children to post cards to their friends
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> December	<b><u>Last Day for Christmas Card Posting!!</u></b>
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Christmas Dinner for Lunchtime Children</u>
Weds 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Christmas Jumper Day</u> Wear your favourite Christmas jumper or decorate your own and bring a donation for Save the Children
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Nursery School Christmas Party</u> <b>PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN UNTIL 10am</b>
Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Last Day of Term for Nursery School Children and Up to 3s' funded children</u>
Weds 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	<u>Up to 3s' Last Day before Christmas break</u>
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>NURSERY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS</u>
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>Nursery School &amp; Up to 3s' closed for INSET Day</b>
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b><u>Nursery School Closed for Transition and New Starter Visits</u></b> (Up to 3s' Nursery Open only, including for Funded children)
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Nursery School open again for all returning children
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<u>Nursery School Half-Term</u> Pre-booked holiday care available