



Chichester
Nursery School

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July 2021 Update

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Having thought I'd written the last Newsletter of the School year, it turns out I was wrong!

There are a few things I need to update you about, mainly around staffing, so I have put together a mini-Newsletter to share these additional updates....

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Staffing Updates
- Reports
- Leavers' Celebrations
- Dates for your Diary **(including closure dates and some dates for next year)**



Staffing Updates

The Summer term always sees lots of changes, particularly as many staff, who are on temporary contracts, linked to funding for specific children have their contracts come to an end at this time.

Firstly, some happy news. We are delighted that Justine has made a good recovery now and has re-joined the Up to 3s'; we know how much her families have missed her!

The second piece of wonderful news is that Christina, Keyworker for Yellow C group in Nursery School, is pregnant (you might have noticed her lovely, neat bump!) Christina will be going on Maternity Leave at the end of the Summer Term and returning to us next Summer. We wish her all the best and can't wait to meet her new baby!

Covering Christina's role from September is Louise Balsdon, an experienced Nursery Nurse from Bognor Regis Nursery School. Louise will be spending the day in Nursery on Wednesday 7th July and looks forward to meeting the children and families in Yellow Group, as well as new children at our Taster Evening.

Talking of Maternity Leave, Charlotte, who has been the Manager of the Up to 3s' Nursery has

made the decision not to return, following the end of her Maternity Leave. This was a really hard decision for her, as she has been part of the Nursery for so many years. However, the realities of being a Mum and the hours and responsibilities that went with the Manager role (not to mention Charlotte's 'workaholic' nature!) meant that she felt she could not juggle both. We are still in touch with Charlotte and wish her all the best, and we know that she will still be keeping her eye on us from afar!

This brings me to Abbie, who has done an amazing job of covering Charlotte's role in the most extraordinary times! Abbie has coped with the constant changes and new ways of doing things that has been brought about by the Pandemic. However, she has decided that this is not the role she would like to do permanently and so is off to pursue other adventures. Abbie will remain with us until the end of the Summer holidays and I'm sure you will all join me in thanking her for everything she has brought to the Nursery during her time with us and wish her success in the future!

Abbie's departure has given us the opportunity to review the way the 'Up to 3s' is run and from September, Clare Blanchard and I will be taking on the overall leadership of the 'Up to 3s', with Emma Brennan stepping up to the role of Nursery Coordinator and taking on the day-to-day running

of the Nursery. Many of you will know Emma and know how much she gives to the children, and the Nursery as a whole; we think she will do an amazing job! Please come and speak to me if you have any questions about this.

Some more baby news next, Noelia, who has worked in the Up to 3s' and now in our SSC is also having a baby in December! Noelia's contract comes to an end this Summer but we are pleased to say that she has found another post to support her until her Maternity Leave starts. We wish her the very best and thank her for her loyalty and the enthusiasm she has brought to the Nursery.

Another temporary contract also comes to an end this Summer, which means we have to say goodbye to Dylan Smith, who has been supporting children with additional needs in the Up to 3s'. We have loved seeing Dylan's gentle and caring manner with the children and we will be sad to see him go. He has been an incredibly flexible member of staff, taking on lunchtime duties and supporting in the SSC too.

Two more goodbyes remain: firstly Penny Dean, who has supported some of our children with additional needs over the last few years, has moved to Fareham. We are so grateful that she has been willing to commute each day until the end of term, but from September she will look for work closer to her new home. We want to thank

her for all the care and support she has shown to so many children in her time with us. She has been a great part of our team and will be missed.

And finally, a rather long-standing member of our team is heading off for pastures new. “Little Soph” (Sophie Jackson) from our Up to 3s’ has been successful in gaining a new position at a Nursery over in Bury, with its very own mini-farm! They do say ‘never work with animals or children’, but it seems as though Sophie has set herself the challenge of working with both! Sophie has been a huge part of the Up to 3s’ team for many years now and her departure will leave a big hole - not just for us as staff but I know she will be missed by many children and parents and that you will want to join me in thanking her for everything she has given to the Nursery over the years. We wish her great success in her new role and hope she enjoys having a little more time to spend with her daughter, Marlie.



Reports

If your child is leaving us to go to school this year, you will have received their School Report. We hope you have enjoyed reading them and feel really proud of what your children have achieved – I know that I have had a bit of a tear in my eye as I have been reading through them!

You will find inside your child's report a slip of paper, asking for some feedback about your experience at Chichester Nursery School (Keyworkers will also be sending out a version of this via email). We would be really grateful if you could take the time to fill these in and let us know what has worked well for you and your child, but also any ways in which we can improve (we know we're not perfect!) These comments are so valuable to us in our ongoing planning for improving the Nursery and moving forward.

Leavers' Celebrations

This is coming up very fast now. On Friday 23rd July we will be saying goodbye to our children who are leaving to go to Primary School. We are delighted to be able to invite Parents and carers of leavers to join us for this celebration in the SSC garden.



Please note the following times for your child's group:

10.30am	Red and Orange am groups
11.15am	Blue am and Yellow C groups
1.00pm	Yellow D group and Blue all day & pm children
1.45pm	Green group
2.30pm	Purple group
3.15pm	SSC children – Angie will confirm arrangements with parents individually

Nursery sessions will start at the normal time on this day, but to enable Keyworkers to run the session with their group, we ask you to take your children home when their celebration has finished. This will enable us to have sufficient staff to look after the children in Nursery who have not yet had their celebration, or who are not going to school.

If there are difficulties with the above please speak to your child's Keyworker.



Have a wonderful Summer and we look forward to seeing those of you returning in September.

If you are leaving us, please do keep in touch and come back and visit!

Ruth

Dates for Your Diary

Weds 7 th July	Taster session for new children joining in September, including children transferring from Up to 3s'
Thurs 8 th July	Taster session for new children joining in September, including children transferring from Up to 3s'
Fri 23 rd July	Last day of Term & Leavers' Ceremonies
Mon 23 rd - Fri 27 th Aug	Nursery shutdown week. Whole of Nursery (Up to 3s' and Over 3s') closed!
Tues 31 st Aug	Up to 3s' Reopens Holiday care for returning children only – no holiday care for School Leavers
Thur 2 nd Sept	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training
Fri 3 rd Sept	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training
Mon 6 th Sept	Term restarts for Up to 3s' Children. Nursery School closed for Home Visits
Tues 7 th Sept	Existing Nursery School children return
Mon 25 th Oct- Fri 29 th Oct	NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM Pre-booked daycare only for all children
Mon 1 st Nov	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET TRAINING
Fri 17 th Dec	Last Day of Term for Nursery School children and Up to 3s' funded children
Thurs 23 rd Dec	Up to 3s' Last Day before Christmas break
Fri 24 th Dec	NURSERY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS