



Chichester
Nursery School

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November/December 2022

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope those of you who had a half term break had a good one.

This half term sees the build up to Christmas, which is one of the most exciting times in Nursery and we are looking forward to sharing some wonderful 'Christmassy' experiences with the children that they will remember... more about all of that later!

I'm sure all of you have seen the letter about the changes in our Leadership that will be taking place in January. This means that this will be the last Newsletter I write (though I may still have a section that I add) and Clare will be taking over Newsletters from now on. I look forward to reading them and not writing them in the future!

Ruth

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Staffing Updates
- Boiler
- Food Bank Vouchers & Hygiene Bank
- Clothing Swaps
- Grounds Morning
- Keep Us Up to Date
- Help Us Keep You Up to Date
- Final INSET Day
- Socks
- Christmas Raffle
- 'Ditch the Dummy!'
- Parent Workshops
- Children in Need
- Parent's Evening
- Late Collections
- THE CHRISTMAS SECTION, to include:
 - Christmas Cards
 - Christmas Singing Around the Tree
 - Nursery Christmas lunch
 - Christmas Jumper Day
 - Christmas present wrapping
 - Nursery School Christmas party
 - Up to 3s' Christmas celebrations
- Dates for your Diary
- Opening over Christmas and New Year



Staffing Updates

We are very sad to share the news that Sophie Meigh, our wonderfully straight-talking Northerner and Keyworker to Purple Group in Nursery School is leaving us after many, many years. Sophie is going to be working for Early Help, where we know she will be fantastic in providing support for vulnerable families.

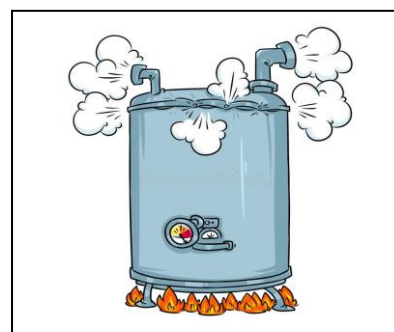


I'm sure you will join me in thanking Sophie for all her hard work over all the years (Sophie started life as a parent volunteer and then a crèche practitioner in our Children's Centre many years ago!) We will miss her and wish her all the very best in her new role!

On a positive note, we are pleased to welcome Elise Bailey to the Up to 3s' team. Elise joins as a Nursery Assistant, supporting Kirsty in Yellow Group. Elise has worked previously with a childminder and a Nursery and we hope she will settle in with us well.

Boiler

You will recall the problems we had with our boiler in September, when despite its annual servicing in the Summer holidays and a repair that was completed the week before it still let us down and we had to close



the Nursery! We take incidents like this very seriously, as we know how disruptive it is for families who rely on childcare. Therefore, we have decided to create a back-up system to prevent this happening again. It won't be installed until the Summer when we have our closedown week, as it involves turning the water off for a day, but will mean that next Autumn/Winter we will have an alternative system to provide us with hot water if anything goes wrong. Phew!



Foodbank Vouchers & Hygiene Bank

It is even harder than ever for families to manage the cost of living right now and we want to do everything we can to help. We can provide **Foodbank Vouchers** if you need a bit of extra help with food – just email your child's Keyworker, message the Facebook page or catch me, Clare, or Emma.

Also don't forget our **Hygiene Bank** items, which you will find available by the front desk as you enter the building; these items are free so do take whatever you need.





Clothing Swaps

We know how quickly children grow and how expensive it can be to keep up with this, especially in the winter when extra layers and coats are needed, so we are going to trial setting up a rail in the foyer outside Nursery where you can bring your 'too small' clothes and hopefully find some larger ones to swap them for.

Please ensure the clothes you bring are in good condition and unstained. No pants/socks/vests please. Also, if anyone has any spare children's clothes hangers we'd be grateful for donations of these to enable us to hang up the clothes.

Grounds Morning

We are so grateful to the parents and staff who gave up their Saturday morning to help get the Nursery garden tidied up for the winter – I'm sure you'll agree it looks great! We got lots of jobs crossed off our list and had great fun together in the process! A big thank you to Kathryn from Pink Group for organising this. Look out for our next date in the Spring...





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 pop in to the office or email 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 is via our Facebook page and our ParentApp. Our ParentApp is the way to access reminders about dates, INSET days and view our Newsletter and other letters so do make sure you are using this.



Just download "Our Schools App" and select "**Chichester Nursery**" (not "Chichester Nursery Children & Family Centre")

Final INSET Day

Our final INSET Day of the School year will take place on **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**, where we will be undertaking the next stage of



our Makaton training. Please note, the entire Nursery will be closed on this date.



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.

Raffle

We are always trying to find extra money towards new resources and improving the Nursery environment for our children. To help us raise some extra funds for this we are planning to hold a raffle, where you can win a hamper full of Christmas goodies and vouchers to spend for the whole family. This draw for the hamper will be at **10am on Monday 5th December.**



We would be grateful for any donations of gifts or vouchers (if you know someone who owns a business and would be able to offer these!) for our hamper. Look out for tickets going on sale very soon!



‘Ditch the Dummy!’

At Chichester Nursery School we are very skilled at supporting children who have speech and language difficulties and delays – something that is becoming increasingly common in the children we teach.

We are aware that many children who are talking still come to Nursery with a dummy, which we know can be a lovely comfort for children but it can be really detrimental to their speech and language development. We therefore ask that children (not babies) do not have a dummy when they are coming to and from 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.



Our Parent Workshops have been a great way to share some of our 'Top Tips' on a range of common subjects. We have two workshops coming up this half term:

'Top Tips for an Easier Life' – Thursday 24th November, 9.15am

- Creating routines that work for you and ways to manage those difficult times of the day
- How to manage meltdowns
- Strategies to support positive behaviour

'Play Workshop' – Monday 28th November, 9.15am

- Ideas for low cost / no cost ideas for keeping your child entertained at home
- Make a sensory toy to take home

(Please note: these are not workshops to bring children to!)

Workshops will be freely available for all parents/carers to access and will also provide the opportunity to ask questions and share tips with other parents. Book via our Facebook page, the office or speak to your child's Keyworker

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



Children in Need

BBC Children in Need is on **Friday 18th November 2022**. Please can children come to Nursery wearing something spotty and bring a donation to help vulnerable children

across the UK.

Parent's Evening

This is a chance to catch up with your child's Keyworker and hear about their progress in Nursery or discuss how they are settling.



We are offering appointments face to face for parents/carers on **Wednesday 16th November** (some Keyworkers may have additional dates allocated).

This is a really important part of your child's educational journey in Nursery and a key part of working together to help your child make the best possible progress so please do make every effort to attend.



Late Collection

We know how difficult the traffic is around Chichester at the moment so we do ask that Parents and Carers allow extra time when travelling to collect your child from Nursery. Late collection prevents staff from

having their already very short lunch break or it means they have to stay when they are no longer being paid.

In accordance with our policy parents will be charged for late collection and at the end of the day, this is charge of £20!

C H R I S T M A S



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



Christmas Cards

From **Thursday 1st December** our Christmas post boxes will be placed in the foyer, near the entrance to Nursery School and Up to 3s'. Children can post cards for their friends which will be collected each day and 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 Wednesday 14th December**



Christmas Singing Around the Tree

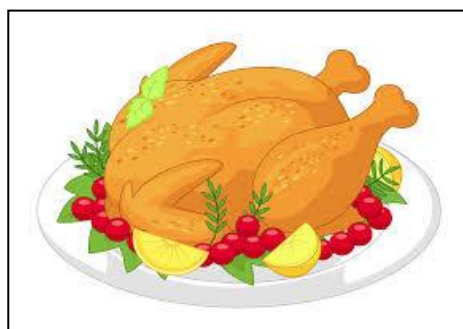
We are excited to be able to bring back this lovely family event, post-Covid.

On the last Wednesday of term, 14th December, we will be inviting Nursery School parents and carers to join us at 3.45pm after Nursery for a special time of singing Christmas songs together around the tree in the garden, followed by refreshments. Nearer the time your child will be bringing home a Christmas Songsheet so you can practice some of the songs together. We hope you can all join us for this wonderful Christmassy event!

Nursery Christmas Lunch

For children that normally stay for lunch, we will be having a 'Christmas Dinner' for them on **Wednesday 14th 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.



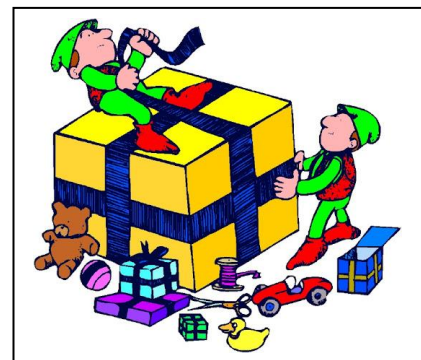
Christmas Jumper Day

We will be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day a few days early, on **Wednesday 7th December,** as this gives most children the

chance to participate in this popular occasion. Children can come in to Nursery wearing their Christmas Jumpers and make a contribution 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!

Christmas Present Wrapping

If you think wrapping Christmas presents for your family is a lot of wrapping, can you imagine what it's like wrapping presents for ALL the Nursery School children?!!



However, over the years we have learned that many hands make light work of this task and so we would love to have some helping hands in **the week beginning 28th November**. Come and speak to Ruth, Clare or Emma if you are able to spare some time to help. Tea and biscuits provided for all helpers!



Nursery School Christmas Party

This will take place on the morning of **Friday 16th 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 to deliver some presents!

*As you can imagine, a 3 hour session is too long for a party, so Nursery on the 16th will start later than usual that day, at **10.00 am***

Please do not bring your child to Nursery until 10am 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 party food for the Christmas party. Lists will be displayed nearer the time. Please sign up if you can!



Up to 3s' Christmas Celebrations

On Wednesday 21st December between 2pm and 4pm the Up to 3s' will be holding a 'Stay and Play' Christmas fun

afternoon, where parents can come and join us for some Christmassy activities, such as Christmas crafts, Christmas songs, some Christmas games, such as pass the parcel and we will share some party food. Families whose children don't usually attend during the holidays will be very welcome to come and join us on this day.

Emma will be sending out a letter to all Up to 3s' parents nearer the time.

Opening Days Over Christmas and New Year

Holiday club and Up to 3s' sessions will run until Friday 23rd December for pre-booked spaces. We then close for Christmas and New Year with our final INSET Day coming straight after the New Year Bank holiday.



January						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

All children will return to Nursery on Wednesday 4th January 2023. If your child is moving through to Nursery School from the Up to 3s' please note there may be a very small gap before your child starts in Nursery school as we start the children in small groups to enable them to settle.

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



Dates for Your Diary

Weds 16 th November	<u>Parent Consultations</u> Meet with your child's Keyworker to find out about their progress – no children please
Fri 18 th November	<u>Children in Need</u> Come to Nursery wearing something spotty and bring a donation for this wonderful appeal
Weds 23 rd November	<u>Nursery School New Children Taster Evening</u> (including children transferring to Nursery School from the Up to 3s') 4-5pm
W/b 28 th November	<u>Volunteers in to do Christmas Wrapping</u> Help us wrap all the children's Christmas presents!
Thurs 1 st December	<u>Christmas Postbox Out</u> Postbox available for children to post cards to friends
Weds 7 th December	<u>Christmas Jumper Day</u> Wear your favourite Christmas jumper or decorate your own and bring a donation for Save the Children
Weds 14 th December	<u>Last Day for Christmas Card Posting!!</u>
Weds 14 th December	<u>Christmas Dinner for Lunchtime Children</u>
Weds 14 th December	<u>Nursery School: Family Christmas Singing Around the Tree 3.45pm-4.30pm</u> Come and join us for a wonderful Christmassy celebration, as we gather in the garden to sing songs around the tree, followed by refreshments
Fri 16 th December	<u>Nursery School Christmas Party</u> PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN UNTIL 10am
Fri 16 th December	<u>Last Day of Term for Nursery School Children and Up to 3s' funded children</u>

Weds 21 st December	<u>Up to 3s' Christmas Stay and Play 2-4pm</u> (for ALL Up to 3s' families)
Fri 23 rd December	<u>Up to 3s' Last Day before Christmas break</u>
Mon 26 th – Fri 31 st Dec	<u>NURSERY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS</u>
Mon 2 nd January	UK Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed
Tues 3 rd January	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training
Weds 4 th January	Nursery School open again for all returning children Children transferring to Nursery School from Up to 3s' will return on the date in their Top Tips Booklet
Sun 29 th January	<u>Families Aloud 10-12pm</u> Come and play in Nursery with your child – all welcome!
Mon 21 st – Fri 25 th Feb	<u>Nursery School Half-Term</u> Pre-booked holiday care available