



Chichester  
**Nursery School**

01243 642959

## September/October 2023

# Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Welcome back to all our families returning this Autumn. We hope you enjoyed your summer and are ready for the new term. It's so lovely to see you all and wonderful to see the Nursery busy with children learning and having fun again!

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome all our new families joining the Nursery School. We hope the settling process is going well for your children and that you are beginning to feel part of 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 if we don't get something quite right 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!**

Each day one of our Senior Leadership Team or office staff will let you in at the start or end of each session and will be in the foyer to Nursery to welcome you (and to catch any escapees whilst the Nursery doors are open!) If you don't already know who we are, let me introduce us:

**Head of School**  
Clare Blanchard



**Up to 3s' Coordinator**  
Emma Brennan

**Finance Assistant**  
Teresa Matthewson



**Administration Assistant**  
Rachael Sparrow

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Staffing Update
- Staff Training

- Up to 3s' Places for Siblings
- Facebook, Instagram & Parent App
- Nursery Clothing
- Parent Workshops
- Bill Payments
- Fruit Donations
- Toys from Home
- Sickness
- Chat to Us & Parents' Evening
- Families Aloud!
- Foodbank Vouchers & Hygiene Bank
- Clothing Bank
- Chichester Festival Theatre
- Core Books
- Dates for your Diary (**including closure dates**)



### **Staffing Update**

There are just a few updates for you this term and none of our 'new' people are really new to us at all as they have all worked here in one capacity or another already!

In the Up to 3s', we are pleased to welcome **Poppy Harper**, who joins us as a full time **Nursery Assistant**. Poppy was a student with us last year in Nursery School. She will be supporting Loo with Green Group.

Also in the Up to 3s', we have recently appointed **Hannah McNally** who will be covering staff to have their record keeping time. You should recognise Hannah as she has done lots of Bank Work for us already.

In Nursery School, **Karen Whittington** has returned from Maternity Leave and has moved across from the Up to 3s' to be Purple Group's Keyworker.

And **Hannah Smith** who is covering Yellow C Group for Christina's maternity leave until the end of the Autumn term is also covering Yellow D for us too.

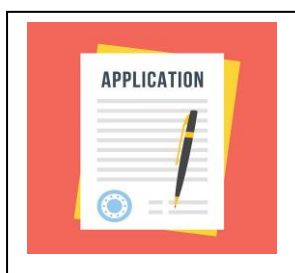
## **Staff Training**

At the beginning of term the whole staff team updated their Child Protection Training. We also had some thought-provoking training on Mindfulness which we will be returning to throughout the year at Staff Meetings. We are looking at how we can all working consistently to help our children build a range of strategies for helping them to recognise and deal with a variety of emotions.



Please note that our next INSET day will be just before half term (**Friday 20th October**) where we will be refreshing our food hygiene qualification

and doing session one of our Makaton Level Two Training. Our next INSET will be on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**, straight after the Christmas break, where we will have our next session of Makaton training. There will be two more INSET days in the Summer Term. The dates for these are yet to be confirmed.

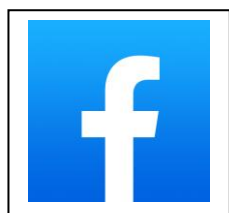


### **Up to 3s' Places for Siblings**

If you are planning on sending any younger siblings of children already in Nursery to the Up to 3s', to give yourselves the best chance of getting a place please can we advise you to apply for a place NOW, as demand is very high and we are currently operating a waiting list. Please see Emma for an application form.

### **Facebook, Instagram & Parent App**

If you haven't done so already, do 'like'



and 'follow' us on Facebook and Instagram. We use both



platforms to regularly share pictures and videos of things the children get up to at Nursery. Our Facebook page is also one of the main ways we provide information about events, dates and things you need to know!

In addition to our Facebook page, our Parent App is a great way to ensure you keep up to date with all the things going



on in Nursery and I encourage you all to download the App on your phone. You will be able to receive updates and reminders about events in Nursery, calendar dates, link to our Facebook page and much more!

Go to <https://www.ourschoolsapp.com/m/#/add-school> and type in our postcode PO19 7AB and ensure you select 'Chichester Nursery School' **NOT** the Children & Family Centre!

## Nursery Clothing

Do remember to bring jumpers, warm coats (preferably waterproof) and sturdy shoes for outdoor play as the weather turns cooler and make sure that your child has a spare set or two of clothing in their bag each day. Also, please bring a pair of named wellies for your child (full names please, not initials, as this can get confusing for us!) – 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 can label your child's clothing and shoes. You don't need to buy fancy labels – a permanent marker or biro works just as well!



Also, please could we ask that you don't put anything in your child's bag that could be harmful if found by other children, e.g. suncream, nappy creams, food and drinks (and please ensure nothing with nuts is ever brought in to the Nursery). Thank you.

If your child has borrowed spare clothing or wellies, or if any Nursery toys have made their way home, please pop them in the crate that is in the foyer area and we will make sure that they find their way back into Nursery.



### **Parent Workshops**

We know that raising a child has its challenges from time to time! From tantrums to toilet training, fussy eating and fighting sleep, it isn't always easy! Parents and carers often come to us to ask for advice and we know it's always helpful to share problems and exchange tips with others in the same situation. This inspired us to put together some parenting workshops, where we can share ideas together and find some solutions to the difficulties that come with parenting!

The Workshop this term will be:

❖ **Top Tips for an Easier Life – Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 9.15am** (looking at strategies for managing children's behaviour and

establishing routines. This was very popular last year!)

## Bill Payments

For parents/carers who pay a monthly bill, we will send bills out to you on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the month and payment is due by 1st of the month.



Please note that late payment charges will be applied to bills that are not paid on time. Do come and speak to us if you are having difficulties paying your bill.

### Our Bank Details

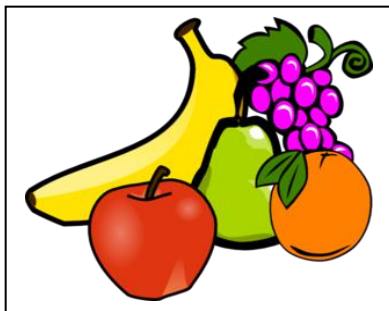
Account Name : Chichester Nursery

Lloyds Bank PLC

Sort Code : 30-00-02

Account Number : 00347626

Please use your child's name as **reference**.



## Fruit Donations

During the session at Nursery the children enjoy fruit, water and milk as snacks.

To help us to provide healthy snacks for the children we ask if families could donate **two** pieces of fruit per week. Thank you.



## Toys From Home

Many children like to bring toys from home to Nursery but we ask that children **do not** do this (even to keep in their bags!) These things easily get lost or taken by other children and it causes a great deal of upset! This applies to children in both the Up to 3s' and Nursery School.



## Sickness

It is probably a good time of year to remind everyone and inform new parents of the need for your child to remain off Nursery for **48 hours** after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. I know this can be really difficult for working parents, but it really does help limit the spread of germs. Thank you!

## Chat to Us & Parent's Evening

Your child's Keyworker always tries to give regular feedback about your child's learning and care, but this isn't always easy when Nursery is busy. If you have something you want to chat through with your child's Keyworker or a message you want to pass on please do email your child's Keyworker and they can respond. Thank you!



On **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November**, from 4pm we will be holding Parent Consultations for Nursery School. This is a time to hear about your child's progress, talk through any worries and discuss the Next Steps they are working towards. After October half term you will be able to sign up for a time slot for an appointment with your child's Keyworker. Up to 3s' Keyworkers will hold their Parent Consultations on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** and may have additional Consultation evenings around this time too. Information about this will be shared nearer the time.



### **Families Aloud!**

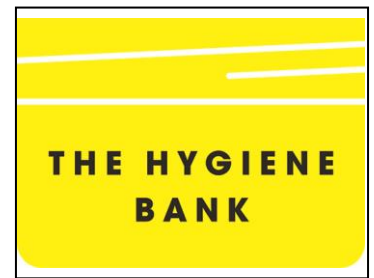
Would you like to see the kind of things your child gets up to during their days in Nursery and get to know other parents? On **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October** you will have the chance to come and play in Nursery with your child/children (older and younger siblings are very welcome too, as are grandparents, cousins and friends!) This is always a wonderful event and a great chance to get to know you a bit better. We hope to see lots of you there!

### **Food Bank Vouchers & Hygiene Bank Products**

We know that times are tough for so many families at the moment with the cost of living continues to increase.



At Chichester Nursery School we are here to support the whole family, not just the children. As you enter the building through the sliding doors, you will find hygiene products and toiletries available in the foyer area for you to take if you need. In addition, we are holders of Foodbank Vouchers so please let us know if you need a voucher or if there is any other support that you need.



## **Clothing Bank**

Did you know we have a clothing bank on site which takes donations of clothes, paired shoes, towels, soft toys, DVD's and more? All your donations help us to raise money for the Nursery, so the more you donate, the more pennies Nursery receives, so please spread the word to friends and family!



**CHICHESTER  
FESTIVAL  
THEATRE**

## **Chichester Festival Theatre**

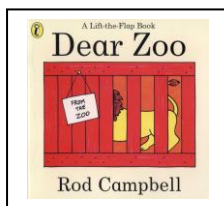
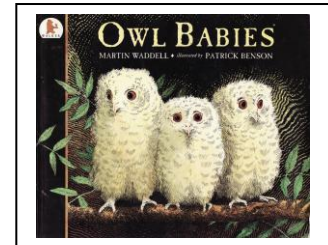
This half term, we will be working with the wonderful team from Chichester Festival Theatre.

On Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> September they will be running some Mini Mover sessions for us and then on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October they will be bringing their production of 'Truth and Tails' to us in Nursery.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience live theatre.

## Core Books

Our core book for September is Owl Babies – a really good way for us to talk with our new children about how when they are dropped off at Nursery, their carer will be coming back for them. There is a lovely animated version of the story on YouTube if you would like to watch it with your child. We have been trying to find someone who would be able to bring an owl in for the children to meet. If you know of anyone, please do let us know.



In October, our core book will be Dear Zoo.

## A message from Ruth, Executive Headteacher

It's been lovely to see the children who have returned to Nursery settle back in so well and watch the new children exploring everything Nursery has to offer!



As you will have seen from the letter that went out recently, we are soon to go through the process of Federating with Bognor Regis and Boundstone Nursery Schools (the Nursery Schools which I also oversee as Executive Head). As a group, we will

be called 'The West Sussex Nursery Schools Federation' (snappy title!) This won't affect the way Chichester Nursery School runs and you probably won't be aware of it, as it is just the creation of a shared Governing Body, which will enable us to work more closely together as 3 Nursery Schools.

I do encourage you to put yourselves forward as a Parent Governor, if you feel this is something you would be interested in. Additionally, we will soon be electing 'Co-opted' Governors; these are Governors who are voted in to the Governing Body, due to having particular skills that are helpful to the Governing Body (especially HR, Finance, Marketing, Health & Safety or experience of working with vulnerable groups). If you think you have skills that you could offer, please come and speak to Clare, who can tell you a bit more.

In the meantime, watch this space for updates!

### Dates for Your Diary

Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> September	<u>Mini Movers Sessions led by Chichester Festival Theatre</u>
Sun 15 <sup>th</sup> October	<u>Families Aloud!</u> Come and play in Nursery with your child
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Chichester Festival Theatre <u>Truth and Tales</u> production in Nursery School
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Nursery School &amp; Up to 3s' closed for Food Hygiene and Part 1 of Makaton Level 2 INSET Training</b>

Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM</b> (pre-booked daycare only for all children)
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> October	<u>First day back after Half Term</u>
Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> November	<u>Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u>
Weds 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<u>Nursery School &amp; Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u>
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> November	<u>BBC Children in Need</u> Come dressed in spots and bring a donation for this wonderful charity
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	<u>Top Tips for an Easier Life Workshop, 9.15am</u> Book via the office or your child's Keyworker
Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<u>Last day of Autumn Term</u> for Nursery School children and Up to 3s' Term Time children
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b><u>Up to 3s' Last Day Before Christmas Break</u></b> (pre-booked daycare only for all children)
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> December – Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	<b>WHOLE NURSERY CLOSED</b>
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	<b>Nursery School &amp; Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training</b>
Weds 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	<b>Nursery School closed for Home Visits</b> Up to 3s' open
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM</b> (pre-booked daycare only for all children)