

Chichester
Nursery School

01243 642959

September/October 2024

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
- Keeping you up-to-date
- Holiday Care Booking Forms
- Nursery Clothing
- Parent Workshops
- Bill Payments
- Packed Lunches
- Nut-free school
- Fruit Donations
- Parking
- Toys from Home
- Sickness
- Nursery School 3pm Pick up Time
- Chat to Us & Parents' Evening
- Families Aloud!
- Foodbank Vouchers & Hygiene Bank
- Clothing Bank
- Chichester Festival Theatre
- Core Books
- A message from our Executive Head
- Dates for your Diary **(including closure dates)**



Staffing Update

Over the Summer Holidays we appointed a new teacher - Kim Curtecka. She is Keyworker for

Yellow D Group in Nursery School. We also appointed two new lunchtime assistants – Shahad Alanazi and Emma McCormack.

We said goodbye to Poppy Harper one of our Up to 3s' Nursery Assistants who is off on new adventures.

And we have also increased our number of Bank Staff – those wonderful people who save the day when we are short-staffed - Amanda Burton-Smith is joining us and Sonya Hammond and Julie Nolan, who some of you will already know, are returning.

Staff Training

At the beginning of term the whole staff team updated their Child Protection Training. We also had worked as a team to



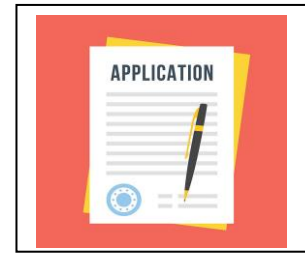
evaluate our Behaviour Policy and look at a range of strategies to support children which we will be returning to throughout the year at Staff Meetings.

Please note that our next INSET day will be just after half term (**Monday 4th November**) where we will be having training on sustained shared thinking.

Our next INSET days are still to be confirmed, but we are anticipating that there will be one in March and one in May/June.

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.

Keeping you up-to-date

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



us on Facebook. We use it 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, you will be emailed out information (such as this newsletter!) so please ensure that you always update us of your email address changes.

The other way that we give updates and reminders is by writing on the whiteboard just outside the door into the Up to 3s' and Nursery school – don't forget to check as you go by.



Holiday Care Booking Forms

We are now asking you to book any Holiday Care that you require for the Autumn Term – that is both the October Half Term and the Christmas

Holidays. Booking forms are available in the foyer. Blue forms for babies, green for 2 and 3 year olds and orange for Nursery School. Please return the forms to us by 27th September if you wish to book any Holiday Care.

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 into the Nursery). Thank you.

If your child has borrowed spare clothing or wellies, or if any Nursery toys have made their way home, please don't forget to return them to us; and if your child has outgrown pants or socks we are always grateful to receive them for our spares box.



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:

- ❖ **Toilet Training – Weds 20th November 9.15am or 1pm** Please book your place with either the office or your child's Keyworker.

Bill Payments

For parents/carers who pay a monthly bill, we will send bills out to you on the 19th 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

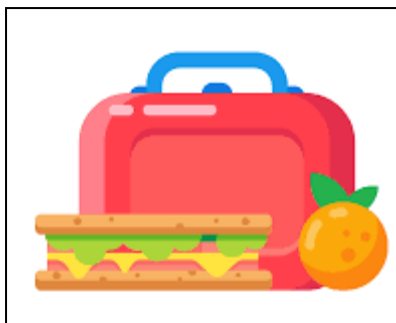
Account Name : Chichester Nursery

Lloyds Bank PLC

Sort Code : 30-00-02

Account Number : 00347626

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

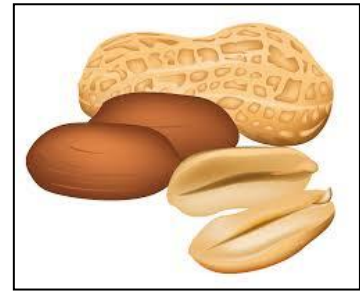


Packed Lunches

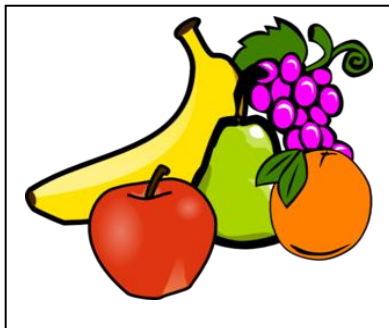
A reminder to parents who send in packed lunches for their child: please ensure that you are following our guidelines about contents of lunchboxes and that you are cutting up food appropriately. There are leaflets by the lunchbox trolley if you would like any reminders. Please could you also make sure that your child's lunchbox is labelled clearly with their name on the outside.

NUT-FREE SCHOOL

We would like to bring it to your attention that although we have always asked for food to be nut-free, it is especially important that



NO NUTS enter the premises as we have a child on roll that has a severe nut allergy. Please be extra alert to the ingredients of any food that you are sending in and help us keep them safe.



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.

Parking

We will be continuing to offer our 10 minute drop-off spaces (including a 10 minute drop off disabled bay). If you are going to be longer than 10 minutes, please park in one of the other spaces, or offsite if none are available.



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.

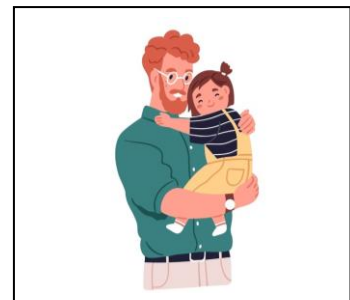


Sickness

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!

Nursery School 3pm Pick up Time

We have felt (as I'm sure you have too!-) that the 3pm pick up time hasn't been working as well as it



could for families. Keyworkers have been finding it difficult to give feedback to parents/carers and it has felt rather cramped in the foyer area.

We are therefore trying out a new system which will enable parents/carers to come in to Nursery which should make things better. Please see the locations below for collecting your children at 3pm:

Every day (apart from a Wednesday):

Purple Group and **Green Group** children – please collect from in Purple Group area, just as you enter Nursery (please wait outside the curtain)

Red Group and **Yellow Group** children – please collect from outside Yellow group area, which is in the Creative area of Nursery (please wait outside the curtain).

On a Wednesday:

Green Group, **Purple Group** and **Red Group** will all be collected from the Purple Group area.

Yellow Group children will be collected from their Yellow Group area.

Please remember, that we still have many children in Nursery until 3.45pm, who need the adults to get back to them as soon as possible, so please help us to enable this by arriving promptly at 3pm and keeping the handovers as brief as possible. We'd love to hear from you how you find these new arrangements. 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 13th 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. The week before 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 Wednesdays 6th and 20th November.



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 17th November** 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 still remaining high.



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!



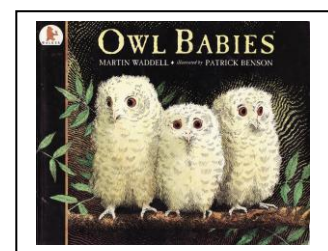
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE

Chichester Festival Theatre

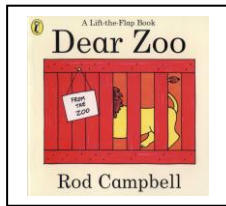
We have already had a visit this half term from the wonderful team from Chichester Festival Theatre. They have run some 'Mini Movers' sessions for us

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.



In October, our Core Book will be Dear Zoo.

A message from Ruth, Executive Headteacher

I've been delighted to have had the chance to spend a lot of time at Chichester Nursery School over the last couple of weeks, instead of my usual zooming around to the other two Nursery Schools we are Federated with. This has given me the opportunity to get to know some of the wonderful new children who have started this term and to catch up with some of those who have returned from last year.

I have been so pleased to see how well the children are settling and how they are relishing the many opportunities that are on offer to them!

I am normally at Chichester Nursery School once or twice a week and, if I'm not doing my bit to keep the car park safe, I do try and take a turn on the Nursery doors at drop off or pick up time so please come and say 'hi' to me and introduce yourselves if you are new. I will also be at Families Aloud on 17th Nov, so I hope to get to chat to lots of you then!

Ruth

Dates for Your Diary

| | |
|---|--|
| Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November | <u>Half Term</u> Pre-booked Holiday Care only |
| Monday 4 th November | <u>INSET DAY</u> Nursery School and Up to 3s' are closed |
| Tuesday 5 th November | <u>First day back after Half Term</u> |
| Wednesday 6 th November | <u>Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u> |
| Wednesday 13 th November | <u>Nursery School Parent Consultations</u> |
| Wednesday 20 th November | <u>Toilet Training Workshops 9:15am or 1pm</u> Book via the office or your child's Keyworker |
| Wednesday 20 th November | <u>Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u> |
| Fri 15 th November | <u>BBC Children in Need</u> Come dressed in spots and bring a donation for this wonderful charity |
| Sun 17 th November | <u>Families Aloud!</u> Come and play in Nursery with your child |
| Fri 20 th December | <u>Last day of Autumn Term</u> for Nursery School children and Up to 3s' Term Time children |
| Mon 23 rd December – Wednesday 1 st January | WHOLE NURSERY CLOSED |
| Thurs 2 nd and Friday 3 rd January | Pre-booked Holiday Care only |
| Mon 6 th January | Nursery School closed for Home Visits Up to 3s' open |

| | |
|---|--|
| Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st February | <u>Half Term</u> Pre-booked Holiday Care only |
| Monday 24 th February | <u>First day back after Half Term</u> |
| Monday 7 th April – Friday 18 th April | <u>Easter Holidays</u> Pre-booked Holiday Care only |
| Monday 21 st April | <u>First day back after Easter Holidays</u> |
| Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th May | <u>Half Term</u> Pre-booked Holiday Care only |
| Monday 2 nd June | <u>First day back after Half Term</u> |
| Tuesday 22 nd July | <u>Last day of the academic year</u> Nursery School will finish at lunchtime Up to 3s' will finish at usual time |

There are two more INSET days to be finalised. They are likely to be in March and May/June. We will share dates once they are confirmed.