



Chichester
Nursery School

01243 642959

November/December 2024

Newsletters

Dear Parents and Carers,

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... more about all of that later!

In this Newsletter you will find information on:

- Staffing Updates
- Food Bank Vouchers & Hygiene Bank
- Clothing Swaps
- Keep Us Up to Date
- Help Us Keep You Up to Date
- INSET Days
- Socks
- Toys from home
- Christmas Raffle
- Website
- Parent Workshop
- Children in Need

- Parent's Evening
- What have we been up to?
- THE CHRISTMAS SECTION, to include:
 - Christmas Cards
 - Christmas Singing Around the Tree
 - Nursery Christmas lunch
 - Christmas Jumper Day
 - Nursery School Christmas party
 - Up to 3s' Christmas celebrations
- A message from our Executive Head Teacher
- Dates for your Diary

Staffing Updates

We are soon to say goodbye to our lovely Daisy who has been an SEND Support Assistant with us for a number of years. She is going to a part time job which will allow her time to use her arty talent drawing pet portraits.



We will also be saying Bon Voyage at the end of term to Freya who is going travelling. She will be greatly missed in the Baby Room .

We are pleased to welcome Tracey to the Nursery School team. Tracey will be covering the Keyworkers when they have their planning and preparation time.

We are also delighted that Thomas is joining our Up to 3s' team. He will be assisting Kirsty with Yellow Group.



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, or catch 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. The hygiene bank are also going to be donating hygiene bags with toiletries for families. Please let Emma or Clare know if you would like one.



Clothing Swaps

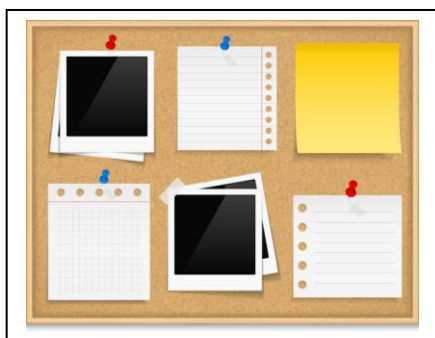
Have you spotted our clothing rail in the foyer area? We know how quickly children grow and how expensive it can be to keep up with this, especially in the winter when extra layers and coats are needed, so you are welcome to bring your 'too

small' clothes and hopefully find some larger ones to swap them for.

Please ensure that the clothes you bring are in good condition and unstained. No pants/socks/vests please.

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.



Keeping You Up to Date!

We email out copies of this newsletter as well as having paper copies available. Our term and INSET dates are displayed on the noticeboard to the right of the door where you exit the Nursery corridor. We post updates/reminders on our Facebook page and use the whiteboard by the sofa in the foyer for this purpose also. Please do let us know if you do not receive emailed newsletters and update us if your contact details change.

INSET Days

Our next INSET Day will be Monday 24th February. As with all INSET days, both the Up to 3s' and Nursery School will be closed. We



We are still awaiting confirmation from training providers for final INSET day, which should be around May/early June. As soon as we know exactly when this will be, we will let you know.



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.

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.

Raffle

We are always trying to find extra money towards new resources and improving the Nursery environment for our children, but with our very limited budget we are increasingly relying on



additional fundraising. Therefore, we are planning to hold a Christmas raffle to help us raise some money. Tickets will go on sale on Monday 2nd December and the draw will take place at **10am on Wednesday 18th 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!

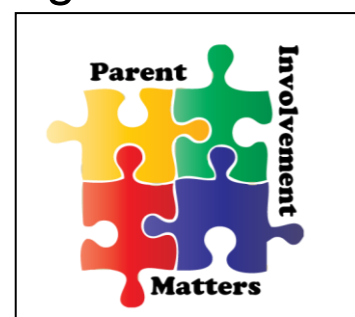


Website

We are planning on redoing our website very soon. If you or someone you know is a website designer, please do get in touch!

Parent Workshops

We all know parenting isn't easy! Many of you chat to us for

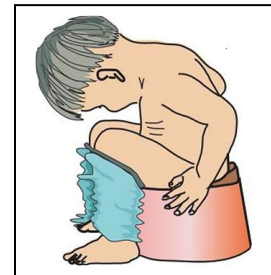


advice/tips about handling a range of different situations and we all know that the best outcomes for children occur when home and Nursery work together.

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

'Toilet Training Workshop' – Wednesday 20th November at 9.15am or 1pm

- How to know when your child is ready
- Top tips for potty training
- How to deal with 'number 2s'
- Avoiding toileting battles
- Troubleshooting



This workshop is freely available for all parents/carers to access and also provides the opportunity for you to ask questions and share tips with other parents. Book by adding your name to the signup sheet on the whiteboard or speak to your child's Keyworker



Children in Need

BBC Children in Need is on **Friday 15th November 2024**. The children are invited to come to Nursery wearing something spotty and to 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 of Nursery School children on **Wednesday 13th November**. The dates for the Up to 3s' parents/carers are **6th and 20th 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.

Please note: we are unable to look after any children during the consultations and it is better that children are not present during the meeting with your child's Keyworker, as this can be distracting for parents and carers but also makes it difficult to talk about any more sensitive matters. Therefore, please find alternative arrangements for your children during this time or arrange to have your parent's evening appointment over the phone. Thank you.

What have we been up to?



Mini Movers put on a music and dance workshop for us.

Our Core Books in Nursery School so far have been 'Owl Babies', 'Dear Zoo' and 'Peace at Last', which have all captured the children's imaginations and led to lots of related play.

Stone's daddy is coming in to help us with a noisy retelling of the 'Peace at Last' story. We also have a librarian, some firefighters and police officers (complete with vehicles) booked in for visits over the coming weeks.

Barfoots donated a generous amount of pumpkins which led to all sort of pumpkin related activities....



Amongst other things, we carved, stacked, transported, 'baked' in our mud kitchen and made our own pumpkin patch.



CHRISTMAS



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



Christmas Cards

From **Monday 2nd December** our Christmas post box 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 18th December**



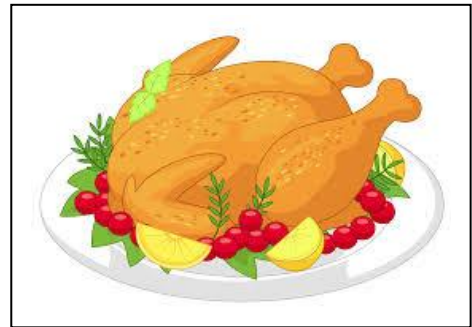
Christmas Singing Around the Tree

On the last Wednesday of term, (18th December), we will be inviting Nursery School parents and carers to join us at 3pm to sing Christmas songs together around the tree in the garden, followed by refreshments.

Nearer the time your child will be bringing home a Christmas song sheet so you can practice some of the songs together. We hope you can all join us for this wonderful Christmassy event! Morning children are welcome to come back in and join us.

Nursery Christmas Lunch

For children that normally stay for lunch, we will be having a 'Christmas Dinner' for them on **Thursday 12th 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. Packed lunch children are welcome to decorate their lunchboxes or have a Christmassy themed lunchbox that day.



Christmas Jumper Day

We will be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day a day early from the official one, ours will be on **Wednesday 11th December,** as this gives most children the chance to participate in this popular occasion as Wednesdays are our busiest Nursery day. 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!



Nursery School Christmas Party

This will take place on the morning of **Friday 20th December**, the last day of term.

If your child is an afternoon child, they are invited to come in on the morning that day instead.

Children will take part in games, dancing and will enjoy a special 'play' put on by our talented staff members, followed by party food.

*As you can imagine, a 3 hour session is too long for a party, so Nursery on the 20th 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

Also on **Friday 20th December**, but in the afternoon 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.

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 booking forms for the Christmas holidays have already been collected in. Because of the way that the

| January | | | | | | |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
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| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

bank holidays fall this year, Holiday Care is only available on **Thursday 2nd** and **Friday 3rd January**. Up to 3s' children will be back to Nursery on Monday 6th January. There will be an additional closure day for Nursery School only on Monday 6th January to allow staff to undertake home visits for new starters. Nursery School children will return on Tuesday 7th January.

If your child is moving through to Nursery School from the Up to 3s' please note there may be a

small gap before your child starts in Nursery school as we start the children in small groups to enable them to settle. Start dates are in the welcome packs. If you are unsure, please check with Teresa or Emma.

A message from Ruth, Executive Headteacher:

What a wonderful first half term it has been in Nursery! I loved seeing how engaged the children are in their learning all around Nursery – indoors and out.

Our team had some refresher training on ‘Sustained Shared Thinking’ during our recent INSET day, which is all about provoking deeper thinking and shared problem solving. I am looking forward to overhearing some interesting conversations, as children have such a unique way of looking at things!

I hope to see many of you at Families Aloud on 17th and, most importantly at our Singing Around the Christmas Tree – such a special family occasion – not to be missed!

Ruth

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



Dates for Your Diary

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Weds 6 th November | <u>Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u> Meet with your child's Keyworker to find out about their progress – no children please |
| Weds 13 th November | <u>Nursery School Parent Consultations</u> Meet with your child's Keyworker to find out about their progress – no children please |
| Fri 15 th November | <u>Children in Need</u> Come to Nursery wearing something spotty and bring a donation for this wonderful appeal |
| Sun 17 th November | <u>Families Aloud! 10am-12pm</u> Come and join your child for a morning playing together in Nursery. Bring the whole family and friends! |
| Weds 20 th November | <u>Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u> Meet with your child's Keyworker to find out about their progress – no children please |
| Weds 20 th November | <u>'Toilet Training' Parent Workshop</u> Workshop for Parents/Carers – 9.15am or 1pm |
| Weds 27 th November | <u>Nursery School New Children Taster Evening</u> (including children transferring to Nursery School from the Up to 3s') 4-5pm |
| Monday 2 nd December | <u>Christmas Raffle Tickets go on sale</u> Help us raise money for Nursery |
| Mon 2 nd December | <u>Christmas Post box out</u> Post box available for children to post cards to friends |
| Weds 11 th December | <u>Christmas Jumper Day</u> Wear your favourite Christmas jumper or decorate your own and bring a donation for Save the Children |
| Thurs 12 th December | <u>Christmas Dinner Day</u> Little Tums will be delivering a Christmassy dinner for those who have hot lunches. If your child has a packed lunch, feel free to go Christmas themed that day! |
| Weds 18 th December | <u>Last Day for Christmas Card Posting!!</u> |
| Weds 18 th December | <u>Christmas hamper raffle draw</u> Will you be a winner? |

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| Weds 18 th December | <u>Nursery School: Family Christmas Singing Around the Tree</u> <u>3.00pm</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 20 th December | <u>Nursery School Christmas Party</u> PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN UNTIL 10am |
| Fri 20 th December | <u>Up to 3s' Christmas Stay and Play - 2 – 4pm</u> |
| Fri 20 th December | Last Day of Term for Nursery School Children and Up to 3s' children |
| Mon 23 rd Dec– Weds 1 st Jan | NURSERY CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS |
| Thurs 2 nd and Fri 3 rd January | Pre booked holiday care |
| Mon 6 th January | <u>Up to 3s' open</u> Nursery School closed for Home Visits |
| Tues 7 th January | <u>Nursery School open for all returning children</u> Children transferring to Nursery School from Up to 3s' will return on the date in their Top Tips Booklet |
| Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st Feb | <u>Nursery School and Up to 3s' children Half-Term</u> Pre-booked holiday care available |
| Mon 24 th Feb | <u>INSET DAY</u> Nursery School and Up to 3s' are closed |
| Fri 4 th April | Last day of Spring Term for Nursery School and Up to 3s' children |
| Mon 7 th – Mon 21 st April | <u>Nursery School and Up to 3s' children Easter Holiday</u> Pre-booked holiday care available other than on the Bank Holidays (Fri 18 th and Mon 21 st) |
| Mon 5 th May | UK Bank Holiday – Nursery closed |
| Mon 26 th May | UK Bank Holiday – Nursery closed |
| Tues 27 th – Fri 30 th May | <u>Nursery School and Up to 3s' children Half-Term</u> Pre-booked holiday care available |
| Tues 22 nd July | Last day of the academic year for Nursery School children and Up to 3s' children |