



## September 2018

We welcome back to the Autumn term our term-time and new children. I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer break.

### Holiday Club Update

Following a busy few days of moving equipment from nursery to the Village Hall and vice versa, we are finally back up and running in the nursery premises with a lovely new floor and some minor redecoration. Holiday club ran smoothly throughout the holidays. Staff have been amazing- working extra hours to help and providing the children with some fabulous activities throughout. I think the children actually enjoyed the entire process- watching the builders proved exciting entertainment at times!

### Staff News

We all celebrated Kerri and Steven's wedding at the end of June. It was a great occasion in the glorious Clanfield sunshine and we wish them a very happy future together. Chantelle marries Karl on 8<sup>th</sup> September and will be having some time out of nursery during this period. Let's hope the weather holds and they too have an amazing day. I think this probably ends our staff weddings for a while!

This term we are welcoming two new staff members, Sam Warburton and Darci Bryant. Sam has had over 10 years experience working in a school nursery, and Darci is just starting out on her journey in childcare- we look forward to getting to know them both over the next few weeks.

Once again, nursery sessions are very busy. We welcome 19 new children this September with more bookings for October 2018. If you think you may want to increase your child's sessions in January 2019 (especially if you will be eligible for 30 hours government funding) please let me know as soon as possible. There are very few sessions available, even afternoons.

### Toys in Nursery

Please can I ask that children do not bring in toys from home. Apart from the sessions being very busy and very little storage room available, we have had occasions when toys have been mislaid and broken. Children in the 2-3s room are of course welcome to bring in comforters, especially during the first few weeks.

### New Parents Coffee Morning

Don't forget our new parent's coffee morning on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 10am-11.30am. If your child is starting in September or has joined us over the summer holidays, you are very welcome to come along to meet staff and other parents.

### Online Learning Journals

Lynda is our resident "Tapestry expert" and will fully induct new parents over the first couple of weeks of term. Please do add your child's news to the journal regularly as Tapestry is our primary source of extending on the children's home interests. If any existing parents would like some quick refresher training, please do ask

### Parking

Please can I remind all parents that we are not allowed to park on the front of the village hall. I realise that the parking facilities for nursery are not ideal, but we do need to respect the wishes of the hall committee. I am still in negotiations with the committee to allow staff to park behind the hall which will alleviate some of the congestion, but in the meantime can I ask that you park courteously in the road, leaving minimal space between vehicles to allow for other to park. Please can you ensure that anyone who may drop off your child is aware of this. Thank you

### Children's Absence

Please could you telephone nursery by 10am if your child has a last-minute absence from nursery. We have to note all absences from a Safeguarding perspective.

### Nursery Teachers/Key Children

As the children change groups for the start of the new term, the majority will be allocated a new teacher. As always, all children mix with various staff throughout the day so every member of staff should quickly become familiar to your child. Your child's teacher will be your immediate point of contact should you have any information they may need to know and will also be responsible for your child's record-keeping and development, but children work with all staff within each age group during their session. I have tried to match staff hours to children's hours to the best of my ability when allocating. You should all have now received an information leaflet telling you a little about your child's teacher and she will also introduce herself to both you and

your child upon your arrival in nursery. Please let me know if you have any concerns.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Over the next 12 months extra-curricular activities will be rotated on different sessions termly to enable as many children as possible access to the sessions. French will remain the only constant on Wednesday mornings (for pre-schoolers) as Anna-Kate follows a timetabled curriculum and needs to build on each session with the same children. This term Acorns Theatre music will be Thursday mornings weekly, and Tattybumpkin yoga will be Tuesday mornings (until October half-term and will then change to Wednesday afternoons)-both fortnightly until Christmas.

### **Forest School Sessions**

We intend to run structured Forest School sessions weekly. Please can children have **named** light-weight waterproof trousers and jacket (pac-a-mac style) and a pair of wellies in nursery to enable us to make the most of outside play in general.

### **Phonic Awareness Training for Parents**

Following a successful presentation earlier this year, pre-school staff would once again like to deliver some phonic awareness training to parents. If you are interested in how you should be supporting your child in this area, do come along at 4.30pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Packed Lunches**

We pride ourselves in encouraging our children to eat healthily. Can I remind new parents in particular that we do not permit any products containing nuts- please could you continue to be vigilant when buying items for lunches- please take special care with chocolate spread, marzipan, satay sauce, carrot cake. Could any food which may be a choking hazard also be cut in half lengthways please eg grapes, small tomatoes and olives. I would also like to discourage bags of crisps and solid chocolate bars; if you want your child to bring in crisps, please can you put just a few into a small container. If at all possible, could lunches also be instantly ready for your child to eat with items such as fresh fruit being pre-cut, as staff are extremely busy supervising during the lunch time period. If you would like some new packed-lunch ideas, do ask for one of our recipe cards. Many parents are now sending in preheated lunches in thermos containers which is a great idea; the food stays warm until lunchtime and the idea may be a welcome change if you are requiring varied lunch ideas. Please can you also ensure that lunch boxes and plastic containers are clearly marked with your child's name. You don't need to pack cutlery-it can easily be mislaid; we will use our nursery cutlery.

Children staying for the afternoon sessions will also be encouraged to brush their teeth. We will provide them with a named toothbrush to enable us to follow the "stop the rot" dental campaign.

I have attached our latest menu cycle for children who are with us all day. We will be starting from 4<sup>th</sup> September with week 4.

### **Photography**

I have arranged for a photographer to come and take photographs of the children during the mornings of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. By arranging for the

photos to be taken earlier in the Autumn term, we hope to avoid the last-minute Christmas delivery rush. Ian Taylor has been photographing Nursery children since 1997 and has considerable experience in getting good photographs of 0-5 year olds. With no change to the normal nursery routine, he photographs the children while they are playing, working and interacting. These black & white, relaxed photographs of the children in the safe nursery environment can then be viewed as contact prints and orders placed accordingly. If you would like your child photographed and they do not normally attend nursery on either of these dates, please let me know.

### **Change of Clothes**

Please could you check that your child has appropriate spare clothing and nappies (if required) in nursery. Clothes should be named and kept in the blue bag provided on their peg (please do not bring in additional bags due to storage issues) Please also name coats.

Could I also remind you that we have a range of children's uniform items available from the same company which provides our staff uniform. If you would like to buy purple polo shirt with our logo on, or purple fleeces, or navy or white sunhats, please have a look at the following website and you can order direct from them:

[www.simplyschoolwear.co.uk/shops/the\\_old\\_station\\_nursery](http://www.simplyschoolwear.co.uk/shops/the_old_station_nursery)  
(where there are spaces – please use underscores)

### **Parent Partnership Group**

In March 2012, we established a new PPG, the purpose of the meetings being for parents to have a say in the running of the nursery. We value your ideas and opinions on any aspect of nursery life, and welcome suggestions to improve our service to you and your child. Every parent is welcome to attend- if you are unable to come and would like a specific subject to be discussed, please do let me know by email or contact George's mummy, Zoe Hickin [zoeadele2@gmail.com](mailto:zoeadele2@gmail.com) who is your parent representative. Our next meeting is Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 4.30pm. We do hope this change of time will allow more parents to attend prior to collecting the children.

We would love to see some new faces at our meetings!

### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

We would like to join in with this worldwide event, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning, on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September and use this fundraising opportunity to invite all parents in to nursery to share a cup of coffee with us, a great opportunity for new parents to spend time with long-standing parents and staff. The event will run from 10am-11.30am. Do come and join us- please could all children bring in a small selection of cakes to sell to their friends.

### **Invoices and Annualised fees**

Please can I remind parents that our 'fees due' date is the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. If you have any childcare voucher payments, please can you ensure they reach our account by 1<sup>st</sup>. Could I also remind everyone that our preferred method of fee payment is by direct debit, so if you are not already on direct debit, please do ask for a form.

**Term Dates for Term-time Children**

We will be following the Oxfordshire Schools 2018 -2019 term-time calendar, with a couple of exceptions. (Please check Christmas Holiday break/end of year, term-dates attached). The immediate dates for term-time children are: Autumn Term begins on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. Half-term commences Monday 22nd October - Friday 26th October. Holiday Club will run as normal for this week.

**Contact Details**

Please could you ensure we have up-to-date contact details for your child, such as your mobile phone numbers and e-mail addresses?

Many thanks for your continued support throughout the year.

***Louise***