



Term Two 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Term 2. We hope you were all able to enjoy the half term holidays with your family.

As we start this term, we are (yet again) in unprecedented times. The new national lockdown which came into place on November 5th will further restrict what we can all do – hopefully for just a few short weeks.

We are delighted that we will be able to remain open and to continue to work to support you and your children throughout this time.

The team are very conscious of the fact that, beyond a very quick 'hello' at pick up and drop off, we are not able to spend any time with you. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and if there is anything at all that we can do to support you, please let us know. Please feel free to drop me an email at any time.

Please find below the latest guidance relating to early years:

Education and childcare settings: New National Restrictions from 5 November 2020

Early years and childcare

There are several ways that parents and carers can continue to access childcare for the duration of the national restrictions:

- early years settings and childminders remain open, and parents can continue to use these settings as normal
- parents will be able to access other childcare activities (including wraparound care) where reasonably necessary to enable parents to work, seek work, attend education or training, or for the purposes of respite care for carers
- nannies will be able to continue to provide services in the home
- parents are able to form a childcare bubble with another household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under
- some households will also be able to benefit from being in a support bubble, which allows single adult households to join another household

Face coverings

In line with the school, we are asking all parents to wear face masks at drop off and pick up from now on. This is so that we can keep each other safe and it further supports the Pre-School to remain open.

Children in Need

To raise money for Children in Need this week, the children (and staff!) are invited to come to Pre – School dressed in their pyjamas, a onesie or anything spotty. Please bring in a £1 donation on the day. As it is bound to be cold, please ensure they have warm layers underneath!

Clothing

We will continue to be outside for as much as possible throughout the winter. Please ensure that your child comes to Pre – School with plenty of warm layers, hats, scarves and gloves, boots and waterproof clothing, as well as changes of clothes for the inevitable splashing in puddles! Please help us by putting your child's name in these. Please could you also provide a carrier bag with your child's name on it for wet clothes. Thank you!

Next Steps

As we are unable to offer our usual Parents' Evening at the moment, we will be sharing your child's Next Steps with you via Tapestry. These are the specific areas for learning and development which your keyperson has identified for your child. Over the next few weeks, we will be working with your child to support them to reach these.

Please note, these are **not** areas of concern – rather, they reflect what we know your child can do now, and what they will be able to do next with a little help.

Parent consultation

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer our Parents' Evening this term due to current restrictions. In its place, we are offering the opportunity for you to speak to your child's keyperson via Zoom. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or Next Steps, or if there is anything you would like to discuss with your keyperson, please email me to arrange an appointment. We can offer appointments in the afternoons between 1.30 and 2.30.

Applying for a School Place for September 2021

It is now time to make your applications for your child to start in reception in September 2021. The closing date for applications is 15th January 2021 and the offer date for on-time applications is 16th April 2021. The most secure method of submitting your application is online. Please go to the website below to do so:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>

Sweet Peas

We would like to plant sweet peas in the garden next year. If you are interested in helping with this, please see the poster on the notice board by the gate or speak to Helen (Seb's Mum) who is very kindly organising this.

Christmas Activities

At the time of writing, it is not clear how much we will be able to share our usual Christmas activities with you. Please rest assured that Christmas will not be cancelled at Pre – School! The children will have plenty of opportunities to sing Christmas songs and to enjoy a variety of fun activities. We will make sure that they have a wonderful time and will share as much as possible with you via Tapestry.

Christmas Lunch December 9th

We will be having Christmas lunch on Wednesday December 9th. This will be provided for us by the team in the school kitchens. If you would like to order a lunch for your child on that day, please send in a cheque/cash in a named envelope directly to the school office.

Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 11th December

On December 11th, we will take part in Christmas Jumper Day. The children will all be invited to wear Christmas jumpers, and bring in a donation (suggested donation is £1 per child). All proceeds from this will go to Save the Children.

Term Dates 2020 – 2021

Term Two – November 2nd – December 18th

Christmas Holidays – December 21st – January 4th

Term Three – January 5th – February 12th

Half term – February 15th – 19th

Term Four – 22nd February – 31st March

Easter Holidays – April 1st – April 16th

Term Five – April 19th – May 27th

Half term – May 28th – June 4th

Term Six – June 7th – July 21st