



Chichester
Nursery School

01243 642959

September/October 2022

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 we know we don't always get it right so 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:



Headteacher
Ruth Campbell



Deputy Headteacher
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
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- Toys from Home
- Sickness
- Chat to Us & Parents' Evening
- Families Aloud!
- Foodbank Vouchers & Hygiene Bank
- Clothing Bank
- Dates for your Diary **(including closure dates)**



Staffing Update

There is always a lot of staffing news at this time of year and this year is no exception.

Firstly, many of you will know that since Denise, our Business Manager left at the end of April we have found it very difficult to find someone suitable to fill her shoes. We are delighted that the

Business Manager from Bognor Regis Nursery School, **Claire Peach**, is expanding her role to become our new **Business Manager** too. As another of the 4 Maintained Nursery Schools in West Sussex, who we already work very closely with, Claire will be familiar with the systems and procedures required in the Business Manager's role. Claire will be spending two days a week with us, generally on a Tuesday and a Friday.

We are very grateful to **Teresa Matthewson** for doing such an incredible job over the last few months in undertaking so much of Denise's role. I am pleased to say that she will continue doing much of this work to support Claire, our Business Manager and is now permanently promoted to the role of **Finance Assistant**.

Now for another brand new member of staff. **Edit Adorjan** is joining us as a full time **Nursery Assistant in Nursery School**. Edit also comes from Bognor Nursery, where she undertook her Level 3 training.

In the Up to 3s', we are pleased to welcome **Anita Leung**, who also joins us as a full time **Nursery Assistant**. Anita will be supporting Kirsty with Yellow Group.

I'm very excited to let you know that **Karen Whittington** in the Up to 3s' has now had her baby. She gave birth to Finnley on 9th September.

She and Finnley are doing well and we hope she will come and visit us before too long.

Freya Bennett will now be taking on the role of **Keyworker for Red Group**.

Also in the Up to 3s', **Loo Toni**, a Teacher who has been working with us for almost a year through an agency has joined our staff team and will be the new **Green Group Keyworker**, replacing Justine.

Joanne Quelcutti, who has been working as a Lunchtime Assistant, will be taking up the post of **Nursery Assistant**, working between Nursery School and the Up to 3s' but based mainly in Nursery School.

Now for a couple of very sad goodbyes. Firstly, **Sonya Hammond**, who many of you will know as the friendly, welcoming face of breakfast sessions and the person who covers Keyworkers when they are undertaking their paperwork. Sonya is leaving in October to work for the NHS as a Community Nursery Nurse, supporting families with young children around their health and development. Sonya has been part of the Nursery team for many years and she has brought so much to the Nursery with her skills and enthusiasm – she will be greatly missed! I will let you know when we have found a replacement for Sonya's role.

And finally, another biggie. **Angie Stenning**, our amazing SEN Coordinator and SSC Teacher in Charge is going to be moving to become Teacher in Charge of the SSC at Horsham Nursery School. This will enable Angie to spend more time with her family and cut down her travelling time, as it is very close to her home. Angie has supported the staff team greatly with so much advice over the years. She has also developed the SSC from scratch and made it in to the fantastic place it is today, that has such a huge impact on children. We will miss Angie's endless positivity and humour – Horsham Nursery School are lucky to have her!

We are pleased to say that we have managed to appoint a replacement for Angie. Jess Davies, started with us at the beginning of September and will be spending a month or so with Angie and her team before taking up her role fully in October when Angie leaves. Jess has just moved to the area, having previously worked as a Teacher in a School for children with emotional and behavioural difficulties, so comes with plenty of experience. We know she will fit in so well with the Nursery Team.

We hope all our staff soon feel settled with us and enjoy being part of the Chichester Nursery Team.

Staff Training

At the beginning of term the whole staff team updated their Child Protection Training.



We have also embarked on a two year training programme to update and extend our Makaton skills. For anyone not familiar with Makaton, it is a form of sign language that we use alongside speaking with the children which is really effective in supporting their language development. Many of you will follow our 'Sign of the Week' posts on our Facebook and Instagram pages and if you don't already, I would encourage you to do so. You will also see our 'Sign of the Week' displayed on the noticeboard as you enter the Nursery corridor. We also hope to run an 'Introduction to Makaton' Parent Workshop this term, which we hope many of you will find useful.

Please note that our next INSET days will be just after half term (**Monday 31st October and Tuesday 1st November**), where we will be refreshing our Paediatric First Aid skills. Our final INSET of the year will be on **Tuesday 3rd January**, straight after the Christmas break, where we will have our next stage of Makaton training.



Ofsted

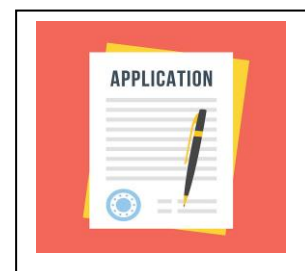
A couple of weeks before the end of term we had an Ofsted inspection of our Up to 3s' Nursery.

Despite an incredibly difficult year of staffing and relying so much on temporary staff, I'm delighted to share that we were graded as 'Good'. There were so many wonderful elements of feedback that we are proud of but in particular the inspector noted *"how deeply engaged in their play and learning"* the children in the Up to 3s' are and that we are *"committed to making a difference to the children and families"* we care for. Both of these things are central to the ethos of Chichester Nursery School. You can access the full report via this link: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50190766>

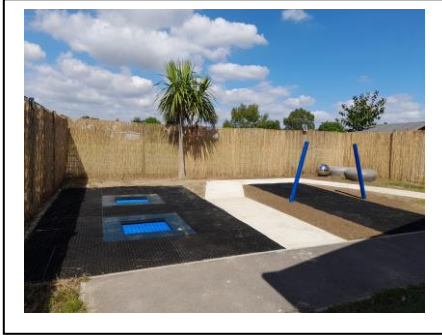
A huge well done to our amazing Up to 3s' team!

Up to 3s' Places for Siblings

Speaking of the amazing Up to 3s': we are aware of many families who are hoping to send 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, as she is now taking over the Admissions Process for the Up to 3s'.



Sensory Garden

For families who are returning to us this year, or for those of you who already follow our Facebook page, you will know that our new Sensory Garden was created over the Summer. The location of this is right next door to the Nursery School SSC and although it will be mainly used by children attending our SSC, we know that Nursery School children will have opportunities to use it too, and sometimes the Up to 3s' children, especially in the holidays.

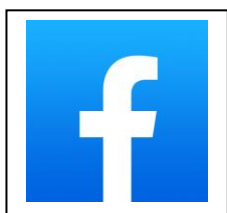
The purpose of this garden is to support children's sensory needs (as the name suggests!) and whilst for some children this will mean sitting and exploring the calming water feature and the sensory planting, whereas for others, they will gain the sensory feedback they need from bouncing and swinging.

We are delighted with the garden and can't wait to complete it with the sensory planting and grass. I would like to thank **Ray Maynard** from **Southdowns Groundworks** (who is a former parent from Nursery!) for doing such a great job in creating our garden for us and thank you to Colin, our Premises Manager, who project managed the garden. I would also like to thank the **Dora Green Memorial Foundation** for their very significant

donation to our project. We know it will benefit so many of our children. Last, but not least a huge you to all our parents and carers and everyone who donated to our Danceathon – we couldn't have done it without you!

Facebook, Instagram & Parent App

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



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!



Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival in Nursery on **Wednesday 28th September.**

Mike Milmine, who is the Curate at St Pancras church and also a Nursery parent will be coming to help us celebrate and learn more about Harvest.

We will be collecting non-perishable food and toiletries for the wonderful Chichester Food Bank, who support so many families in our area. Donations will be collected on the table outside my office. Thank you in advance!

Nursery Clothing

Do remember to bring jumpers, warm coats (preferably waterproof) and sturdy shoes for outdoor play as the weather turns cooler. 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.



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!

Workshops will be based around the following topics:

- ❖ **Toileting – Thurs 29th September, 9.15am**
(our already popular workshop, which has been running for over two years)
- ❖ **Communication – Weds 5th October, 3pm**
(tips for supporting your child's speech & language development)

- ❖ **Play to Learn – Tues 11th October, 9.15am**
(understanding what children are learning as they play in Nursery and how you can support at home)
- ❖ **Top Tips for an Easier Life – Thurs 26th November, 9.15am** (looking at strategies for managing children's behaviour and establishing routines. This was very popular last year!)

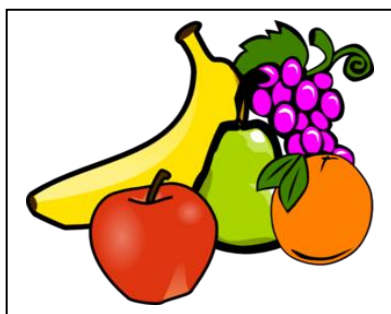
Workshop dates will be also be advertised around Nursery, on our Parent App, on Facebook and Instagram.

Bill Payments

For parents/carers who pay a monthly bill, we will send bills out to you at the beginning of the month and payment is due by 10th of each



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.



Fruit Donations

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

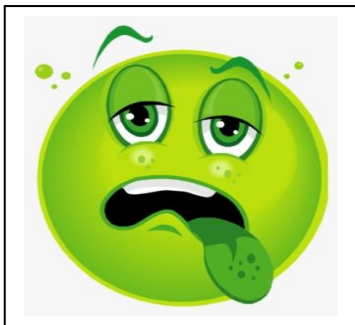
To help us to provide healthy snacks for the children we ask if families could donate **two** pieces of fruit per week. Thank you.

Toys From Home

Many children like to bring toys from home to Nursery but we must insist 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

Well, just a week in to the new term and the germ-spreading has begun! We have had a bit of an outbreak of a sickness and diarrhoea bug and so thought it would be a good time 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 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 16th November**, from 4pm we will be holding Parent Consultations for the Up to 3s' and 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 to have either a phone call or face to face appointment with your child's Keyworker, depending on your preference. Up to 3s' Keyworkers may have additional Consultation evenings around this time too. Information about this will be shared nearer the time.



Families Aloud!

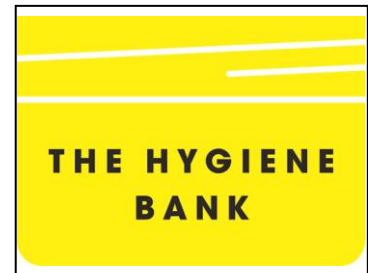
Would you like to see the kind of things your child gets up to during their days in Nursery and get to know other parents? On **Sunday 2nd October** you will have the chance to come and play in Nursery with your child/children (older and younger siblings are very welcome too, as are grandparents, cousins 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 increasing so rapidly.



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!



Dates for Your Diary

Weds 21 st September	<u>Harvest Festival</u> Please bring donations of non-perishable food and toiletries to be donated to Chichester Food Bank
Thurs 29 th September	<u>Toilet Training Workshop, 9.15am</u> Book via the office or your child's Keyworker
Sun 2 nd October	<u>Families Aloud!</u> Come and play in Nursery with your child
Weds 5 th October	<u>Speech & Language Workshop, 3pm</u> Book via the office or your child's Keyworker
Tues 11 th October	<u>Play to Learn Workshop, 9.15am</u> Book via the office or your child's Keyworker
Mon 24 th – Fri 28 th October	NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM (pre-booked daycare only for all children)
Mon 31 st October	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for Paediatric First Aid INSET Training
Tue 1 st November	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for Paediatric First Aid INSET Training
Weds 2 nd November	<u>First day back after Half Term and Inset Days</u>
Fri 18 th November	<u>BBC Children in Need</u> Come dressed in spots and bring a donation for this wonderful charity
Weds 16 th November	<u>Nursery School & Up to 3s' Parent Consultations</u> Face to face or via phone call
Thurs 26 th November	<u>Top Tips for an Easier Life Workshop, 9.15am</u> Book via the office or your child's Keyworker
Fri 16 th December	<u>Last day of Autumn Term</u> for Nursery School children and Up to 3s' Term Time children

Fri 23 rd December	<u>Up to 3s' Last Day Before Christmas Break</u> (pre-booked daycare only for all children)
Mon 26 th December – Tues 3 rd January	WHOLE NURSERY CLOSED
Tues 3 rd January	Nursery School & Up to 3s' closed for INSET Training
Weds 4 th January	Nursery School Term restarts
Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th February	NURSERY SCHOOL HALF TERM (pre-booked daycare only for all children)