



January 10th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all. It is lovely to see you all again and to see how well the children are settling back into Nursery. This is a short newsletter this week to say hello and then we will send a longer one next week with news of what we have been up to.

We wanted to let you know about a couple of things –

RECEPTION CLASS PLACES 2025-2026

Parents of infant school children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 need to apply for an infant or primary school place for September 2025.

Applications close on 15 January 2025, if you have not yet put in an application for your child, please do so as soon as possible.

If you would like some help to complete the registration for your child, please let us know. Here is the link to complete your application –

[https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications#:~:text=Parents%20of%20infant%20school%20children,\(in%20year%20transfers\).](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications#:~:text=Parents%20of%20infant%20school%20children,(in%20year%20transfers).)

HELP IN COLD WEATHER

With the ongoing cold period of weather we are highlighting the support that **Better Housing Better Health** can provide, especially with covering costs of additional heating for those with children. The service can issue **emergency fuel vouchers of at least £50** if people are finding it costly to heat their homes during these colder temperatures. They can also provide other sources of advice and support for a longer term interventions to improve the warmth of the home.

More **general advice can be found here** on support in Oxfordshire

HOT WATER BOTTLE SAFETY

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has produced some information on hot water bottle safety and preventing burns and scalds

https://capt.org.uk/hot-water-bottle-safety/?utm_source=capt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=parentsjan25&mc_cid=61efda2036

STAFFING – MESSAGE FROM JOHN, OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful break and a relaxing start to 2025.

I'm writing to let you know about some updates to the leadership arrangements at our school. Last term, Sarah Hanley our Headteacher, requested to move to a four-day working week. After discussing this with her and considering the needs of the school, I was pleased to support her request. Sarah has already made an outstanding

impact in her time with us, and I'm sure you'll agree that this adjustment will allow her to continue leading the school effectively.

To ensure the smooth running of the school every Wednesday when Sarah is not working, we needed to appoint a named Headteacher for that day. Following guidance from the local authority, I'm delighted to announce that Louise Russell will take on the role of acting Headteacher one day a week. This will strengthen our leadership team further, particularly with our teacher Cat Marriott now back with us.

This arrangement is in place until the end of the academic year, but as our school continues to grow and welcome more families, the Governors will review the structure in due course to ensure the leadership team best meets the needs of our children and community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, please join me in wishing Louise the very best of luck in her new role alongside Sarah.

Thank you for your continued support, and here's to another successful term ahead.

Best regards,

John Palmer

Chair of Governors

EASY FUNDRAISING

We have been looking into different ways of fundraising and have found Easyfundraising. We're now registered with Easyfundraising, which means you can help us easily and for FREE! Over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use Easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE!

These donations really mount up, so please sign up to support us at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/grandpont-nursery-school-and-childcare/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=pmc&utm_content=email-1

We are hoping to fundraise for specific areas of our provision. The first area is our story area. We are hoping to develop it further to become a cosy, warm and inviting space where children feel comfortable and confident to share stories and books together.

TAPESTRY

The children have been having lots of fun in their learning and we send home an observation of their play to share a little of what they are doing. We will also be printing the observations to add to the children's folder here and sharing them with them. Reminiscing is a joyous activity and is also fantastic for the children's learning. If you are interested in how this supports their learning please read the blog below –

<https://childandfamilyblog.com/the-benefits-of-reminiscing-with-your-child/>

Here is a link to various guides that you may find useful in using Tapestry. Please do speak to us if you can't find what you are looking for and we will help.

<https://eyfs.info/forums/topic/47795-tutorials-contents-page-for-relatives/>

We are looking forward to seeing how the children explore and interact with the environment over the next few weeks and working with you to support their learning and development.

Sarah and the team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Half term break for Swans – Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February



Instagram



Facebook

SAFETY

FRONT DOOR INTO THE BUILDING and FOYER - Please can we kindly request that you do not let anyone else through as you go through the front door. This helps us to know who is in the building and to keep everyone safe, thank you.

If your child is in our Swans, term-time provision, please could you stand towards the back of the foyer when waiting for your child. This helps us to see who is waiting more easily and the children to find their adults more easily too. Many thanks.

SICKNESS - A gentle reminder that if your child is sick and/or has diarrhoea, please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last bout. This will help us to minimise the spread of tummy bugs, many thanks.

CAR PARK - For your child's safety, when dropping off and collecting your child from Grandpont, please keep them on the paths and not in the car park itself, many thanks.

DOORS - For the safety of all of our children and so that staff are aware of who is in the building, please do not open doors for other visitors, including parents, many thanks.

Rainbows – Please ring the bell next to the main door when you arrive. A member of the team will come and open the door for you.

Swans – Please wait until a member of the team opens the door at 9am and 3pm. They will invite you in to collect your child. Please stand towards the back of the foyer so that the children are able to come out to you.

TIMINGS –

Rainbows – You are able to bring your child any time after 8am. If you think you might be later than 8.30am, please let your child's keyperson know if it is planned and call the office if you're running late in the morning. You are able to collect anytime later in the day, again let your keyperson know if you are planning to collect before 5pm. Please ensure that you collect your child between 5.45pm and 5.55pm and by 6pm.

Swans – You are able to bring your child for a 9am start and 3pm or 3.30pm finish dependent on the sessions your child is attending each day. Please ask your keyperson if you are not sure of pick-up times.

MORE INFORMATION THAT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...

HEALTH VISITORS

The Health Visitor has kindly signposted us to some great support that you may find useful. Here is a link to their website which then offer support for specific groups; children 0-1 years, 1-2 years and 3-4 years.

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/hv/>

They also have a support and advice messaging service. Parentline 0-4 years. Text: 07312263081

The Health Visitor advised that if you need advice, you can text this number and one of the Health Visitors will message you back. Please do also speak with your child's keyperson as we may have access to some more information that might be useful too.

HOME START

Home-Start Oxford provides non-judgemental, compassionate, confidential and individual support to families who are going through tough times and have at least one child under the age of five. If this is something that you might find helpful please contact them directly or speak to your child's keyperson.

<https://homestartoxford.org.uk/>

50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE FIVE

This is an amazing app that offers lots of fun and engaging ideas of things to do in and around Oxford. There is also an app for older children that may be useful if your child has older siblings.

<https://oxfordshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/welcome>

Let us know how you get on and how much fun you've had!

BBC TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

The BBC have created an incredible website with lots of advice, hints and tips to support us all with parenting and supporting our children's development. The website has been created with the support of Early Childhood Experts and contains a wealth of information.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

THE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Wildlife Trust has some lovely information

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/where-to-see-autumn-wildlife?utm_source=Engagement+List+2024&utm_campaign=821e860e7c-BWW24+-+Autumn+focus&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-adf3d3b08e-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

ALL ABOARD THE TOILET TRAIN

ERIC have launched their new campaign, All Aboard the Toilet Train, which aims to help more children get ready to use the toilets independently. Please do ask your child's keyperson if you would like support with this.

[All aboard the Toilet Train: Get ready for school - ERIC](#)

Oxfordshire Healthier Together

The [Oxfordshire Healthier Together website](#) provides expert advice from local healthcare professionals for parents and carers when their child is unwell.

With a user-friendly traffic light system, parents can find clear information on common childhood illnesses, including what symptoms to look out for, what they should do, and when and where to seek help if required. The website features a translation tool, a directory of local services to support family health and wellbeing, and advice on whether a child should go to school when they have a virus or infection.

Parents can also download the Healthier Together app if their child is unwell, to get advice at their fingertips. Using a red, amber, green self-assessment of symptoms, parents are directed to the appropriate setting at the right time. Search for 'Healthier Together' in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)

Strengthening family relationships

All families disagree sometimes. You might have problems that are hard to solve, or things going on that cause you stress.

There is a section of the Family Information Service website with information and tools that can help reduce or improve conflict at home. For more information click here: [Family Information Service | Family Support Toolkits \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)