

December 6th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Over the last two weeks we have been meeting with parents to talk about how the children are settling into Nursery life, their interests and how we together we are supporting their development. If your child is over two and we have not yet met with you, we will be chatting with you to arrange a time over the next two weeks. If your child is under two, we will organise a time to chat with you in the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to meet with us, we have found the meetings to be really positive and useful. We are looking forward to the meetings to come too.

It has been really lovely to welcome Cat back from her maternity leave. She is already getting to know the children and learn about their interests.

An unusual request – if you have any large boxes at home from parcel deliveries, please could we have them. They are such a versatile resource that can be used in so many ways. Many thanks.

ST EBBE'S SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FETE



St Ebbe's
Christmas Fete

Friday 6th December in the school hall 3:15 - 5pm



St Ebbe's School have their annual Christmas Fete today. They have kindly offered for us to join them. We are going to be there with a lucky dip and a name the teddy table. If you are free and able to pop along, it would be really lovely to see you there.

Some of the other fun things on offer include; children's crafts for sale, games to play, craft activities, pick n mix and cake stalls, mulled wine, hot chocolate and warm apple juice, minced pies a photo booth, karaoke (in an adjoining room), hotdogs softdrinks and crisps

CHRISTMAS TREES



You may have already seen our beautiful Christmas trees. We would like to send our grateful thanks to the Oxford Sea Cadets and B&Q Botley for their generous donations of a tree.

The children have been enjoying seeing the tree in the foyer through the window and decorating the tree in the blossom room entrance.

READING FOR PLEASURE

Reading together can be one of the loveliest times of the day and is so beneficial for our children's development in so many areas. We have daily group Storytime sessions and lots more opportunities to share and enjoy books together throughout the day. Here is a fantastic website that offers lots of information, guidance, hints and tips to make reading together a real pleasure and a magical moment of the day.

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/reading-for-pleasure/families/>

SWANS AND RAINBOWS OVER TWOS



You may have noticed when you collect us to go home that we might look a little messier than we did when we arrived at nursery.

There are a few reasons why this might be:

Since the beginning of September, during our day at nursery we have had lots of opportunities to experience our world using our senses. You may have noticed us exploring play dough, gloop, oats, rice, paint, mud, water, sand, light, sound, natural objects and movement.

Why is this so important for us as we grow?

Sensory play or messy play helps us to understand how our actions affect what's around us. It supports our brain development, enhances our memory and helps us to solve problems.

It is just as much fun to smear paint all over our hands as it is to spread it onto paper! This is because we are natural scientists and we are investigating, exploring and experimenting with the materials and how they feel on our skin. We need to do this to understand the texture and movement of paint, while helping us to learn about our bodies and personal space.

Playing in a sensory way strengthens our muscle tone and control, which is so important as we develop our early writing skills. Playing with spoons, rolling pins and spades helps develop and practice our fine motor skills until we are ready to hold a pencil or eat with a fork.

Sensory experiences mean we are free to explore our own ideas. There is no right or wrong way, which also builds our confidence and sense of self. We can be as creative as we want to. The sky's the limit!

Every area of learning is included in our sensory experiences. Not only are we expanding our creativity, but we are also developing our language and interactions with those around us. We can begin to describe how things feel, smell, look, hear and taste like, increasing our vocabulary.

There are an abundance of maths and number opportunities to learn as we measure, weigh, compare, sort, group and sequence.

You are very welcome to join us in our sensory explorations at nursery. But we can't promise you won't get just a little bit messy!



RAINBOWS UNDER TWOS



Under 2's have been having the most fantastic time exploring the outside space this week. We have visited the over 2's garden to say hello and enjoyed some of the exciting activities on offer, including: painting large boxes and gathering the autumn leaves. It is lovely to see the children interacting with their younger siblings and the older children are really demonstrating care and compassion in the interactions with their younger peers.



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 are now open for school places for the Reception Year 2025-2026. 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).)

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We are having our School Christmas Dinner on Friday 13th December. We are dressing in seasonal clothes, if your child would like to come in dressed for a special dinner that would be lovely. See attached poster for the menu.

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

We would like to invite you to join us for a Christmas Sing-along on Wednesday 18th December at 2.30pm. We are planning to meet in the Mulberry Room (where the older children have their lunch) sing some traditional and some fun songs together. There will be some refreshments to lubricate the vocal chords! We would love it if you could join us.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

The NHS Healthier Families website have put together a list of indoor games and activities for children so they can still get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need – even when they cannot get outside.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/indoor-activities-for-kids/>

TAPESTRY

The children have been having lots of fun in their learning and we will 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/>

With our best wishes,

Sarah and the team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

St Ebbe's School Christmas Fair – Friday 6th December 3.15pm to 5.15pm

Christmas Dinner Day – Friday 13th December, come to school in a seasonal jumper or outfit

Christmas Sing-along – Wednesday 18th December 2.30pm to 3.00pm

Last day of term for Swans – Friday 20th December 3.00pm

Last day of term for Rainbows – Tuesday 24th December 6.00pm

INSET day – Monday January 6th

Start of term for Swans and Rainbows – Tuesday 7th January



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!

ST EBBE'S SCHOOL INFORMATION



Spaces available at St. Ebbe's Primary School for Reception 2025.

10 reasons why your child will thrive at St. Ebbe's:

A place where they belong as an individual	Strong, caring connections with staff	High-quality wraparound childcare from 7:45am to 6:00pm and holiday camps	
A focus on resilience, emotional wellbeing and happiness		A culturally diverse and inclusive community	Excellent teaching of reading, writing and maths with good results
French taught by native speakers	Excellent play-based provision through to Year 2	Playtimes that develop creativity, courage and risk-management	Beautiful grounds: a field, wild garden, chickens and a therapy dog

**Come and have a tour with
Tina Farr (Head Teacher) and
feel the St. Ebbe's experience.**

T: 01865 248817 E: office.3833@st-ebbes.oxon.sch.uk
W: www.st-ebbes.oxon.sch.uk



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 \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)