

March 28th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

What an exciting time we are having at Grandpont this week! We were very patient in watching and waiting to see what would happen to our eggs. On Wednesday we were amazed when one of the eggs hatched and a tiny wet chick pecked its way out. On Thursday we were even more amazed to arrive to find there were now nine chicks all huddled together. We have spent lots of time observing them and chatting about what we can see and notice.



We have also been learning about how to care for the chicks and how to hold them and keep them safe. We have been very gentle.

GNSA AGM

The Grandpont Nursery School Association GNSA is our charity and its purpose is to raise funds to support our learning community. The AGM is being held on Thursday 3rd April at 5pm. We would really like to reinvigorate the charity as we have lots of lovely plans for how we can enhance our provision. We have two key focus areas at the moment:

- our sensory provision which supports all of our children's physical, social, emotional and communication development, and
- Our outdoor provision and environment which as we all know can be a rich learning environment for our children.

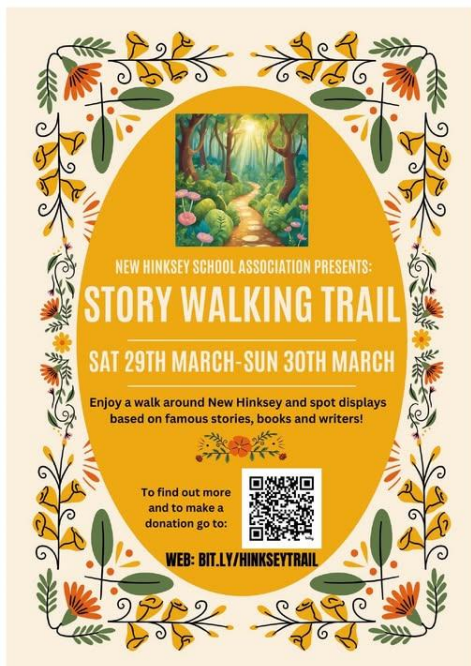
We would really love it if some of our families would be able to help us with ideas and plans for how we can raise funds while having fun as a community. If you are interested in learning more, please come along to the meeting or join us online via this link –

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDIwNzAwZDQ0NjFiNiY0YzA0LTk3NmMtMDY0MGYyYmZINGEz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f05d39da-26ec-4eea-b8eb-9ff1a682d5e5%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fcb96ebc-9246-4b0a-9ef9-661b82b8d058%22%7d

We are really looking forward to seeing you there.

NEW HINKSEY STORY TRAIL

New Hinksey Primary School have devised a story trail for local families (a little clue for the trail – we are looking forward to seeing if you notice a place very familiar...). The details of the trail can be found here -



We also have the poster displayed in our door window.

Bookshelf Book swap and Lending Library

Check out our very own lending library in our foyer. There are lots of books there that you can borrow and enjoy then return to choose a new one. We have also added a Book swap Bookshelf so that we can all share in the book fun. Please do take a book that you think you might enjoy and bring one back that you think someone else might find interesting too.

FOOD LARDER

We have asked if it might be possible to increase the range of products available in our mini food larder. You may have noticed the daffodils earlier in the week which we hope brightened your day and definitely led to some fabulous learning opportunities here – daffodil spaghetti was a new recipe for us but definitely delicious!

Please look out for some other new items arriving on the shelf soon.

For more details about Oxford Food Hub please see their website - <https://oxfordfoodhub.org/>

RAINBOWS – UNDER TWOS



We have had a wonderful time exploring and creating this week – and have done a great job of cleaning up afterwards too. It is lovely to see how the children have been very confident in their choices for their artwork.

We have been popping through to visit the eggs and the chicks and have been fascinated watching them, hearing about them from our friends and learning from books too.

We have also been doing our own research and investigations about how best to transport things and people and how we can travel ourselves too – lots of fun!



SWANS AND RAINBOWS – OVER TWOS

We've had a very exciting time observing and looking after our chicks this week! But they weren't chicks to start with; we first had eggs in an incubator and spoke about how the chick grows inside the egg until its strong enough to peck its way out. During group times, we enjoyed a few nonfiction books about this, with very interesting pictures and diagrams showing us what was happening inside. Then on Wednesday, pop! Out of the one egg came a very tired and wet chick, and by the end of the day, we had 9!! We can't wait to hold them over the next week.



We have also been busy exploring pattern in a variety of ways. We have noticed that there are patterns all around us and that we can create colourful patterns of our own, sometimes with a friend and sometimes independently. We have also had lots of fun creating daffodil spaghetti in our very busy kitchen. We used all of the utensils and did find that our busy kitchen became a little untidy...so we tidied up after ourselves too!

You may have noticed the studio area is well used and loved and the best of it is, it is so very good for developing all of our senses and learning.

We wish you all a lovely day on Sunday for Mother's Day and also wish everyone Eid Mubarak.

With our very best wishes.

Sarah and the team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

GNSA AGM – Thursday 3rd April 5pm

Swans Easter break – 7th April to 21st April

Wednesday 18th June – 30th Anniversary Celebrations, watch this space for more details!

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 – Please telephone to let us know if your child will not be attending a session by 9.30am, many thanks. Also 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...

EASY FUNDRAISING

We have had a few people sign up to Easy Fundraising and we can see how much of a difference it will make over time. Please do consider signing up. If you have a regular delivery from the supermarket, using the fundraising page for that alone would really help. We are hoping to use the funds to support us with redeveloping and resourcing our outdoor area.

Please ask if you'd like more details or see the link here – https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=365917&invite=nkpwax&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Or use the QR code. To borrow a well-known phrase – Every Little Helps!



Instagram



Facebook

TAPESTRY

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/>

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!

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/>

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