



December 20th 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We do hope that you've enjoyed the singalong as much as we have enjoyed learning the songs and making preparations for the day. The atmosphere felt wonderful and warm, and the children really were absolute stars. It was so lovely that some of the residents from Pegasus Grange were also able to join us too. They told us that they had had a wonderful time and that they felt that the children sang beautifully. Children singing together is magical and if you were able to join us Wednesday, we hope that you felt the sparkle too!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all of your support and warmth (and patience at times!) throughout the autumn term. We have been so pleased to see how the children have settled into the environment and into being with each other. Thanks also to the team who have also worked hard to make our provision engaging and to support our families to feel a sense of belonging to our community.

MANAGING THE SENSORY OVERLOAD AT CHRISTMAS

Preparing for Christmas is a time of excitement and anticipation. As adults, we know that it can sometimes feel a little overwhelming with everything that needs to be done. For our children, there are aspects of the festivities that can be tricky to manage. Beacon House have published a brilliant collection of resources specially designed by their therapists to support regulation, connection and rest during December. You may find that this one in particular is helpful in navigating some of the emotions and feelings: <file:///C:/Users/Head/Downloads/Managing-The-Christmas-Sensory-Overload-1.pdf>

You can also find more useful information here: <https://beaconhouse.org.uk/winter-resources/>

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/>

We do hope that you and your child have enjoyed sharing your Elmer books together...and that the chocolate coins were a lovely treat too!

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.

SWANS AND RAINBOWS OVER TWOS

From the earliest days in September, when we all came together as one, we have been growing our confidence, creativity and curiosity. It may have all seemed brand new and different at the beginning as we were starting our journey. During those first few weeks of settling into nursery we began to explore the spaces where we could relax, feel safe, happy and content with people that care for us. We have made those first connections with other children that grow into friendship as we share interests and play.

We have continued to discover new things and ideas over these weeks, which have included some first experiences that have captured our imaginations so much we will revisit them many times in many different ways to really understand them.

As our sense of self and confidence continues to develop, we will 'have a go' and persevere to reach a goal. We are learning if we keep trying, we can do it! We already have a lot of knowledge and skills that we have learnt at home with our families. We have brought these experiences and knowledge to nursery to share and build upon them. These are our strengths.

As the end of the year is nearly here, let's reflect and reminisce about all of the special moments, the achievements and experiences that we have shared at Grandpont nursery and all of those that are ahead of us in 2025.



RAINBOWS UNDER TWOS

What an amazing first term back.

Time has flown this term and we cannot believe that Christmas is upon us already! The children continue to impress us with how well they have settled back in. We are so immensely proud of the way they have taken to new routines, formed friendships with their peers and special bonds with key adults. It is so lovely to see their faces light up when they see one of their friends arrive in the mornings.

The positive feedback and ongoing support from parents is very much appreciated as we strive to provide the best possible care and learning opportunities for all our children.

The hot lunches have been a great hit, and the children genuinely get excited when they see the lunch trolley each day. This time together gives children the opportunity to experience different tastes and textures and enjoy the social aspect of sharing food.

HOLIDAY FUN

Here are some ideas for a day out over the holidays...

The Story Museum – an incredible and interactive story space for children of all ages

<https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/whats-on>

Science Oxford – such an incredible place to explore, investigate and discover

https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/?_event_location=science-oxford-centre

And in case this helps, they both have rather lovely cafes on site too!

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).)

HOME IS WHERE THE START IS

Early Years Alliance are a fantastic resource and source of information for families and for childcare providers. They are running some family sessions in February including one with the author Michael Rosen. Please see here for more details and booking information; https://public-gbr.mkt.dynamics.com/api/v1.0/orgs/e5154b7c-a307-ef11-9f85-0022481ae5a1/channels/emails/vib/bd736cee-9696-ef11-8a6a-6045bdd00a99_18798b71-47b6-ef11-b8e9-6045bdc1de0c_4dab526e-3047-1c65-ad37-ff106a4c43eb_18188202-4cb2-ef11-b8e9-6045bdc1de0c#msdynmkt_trackingcontext=55223747-710d-4786-adc0-c67675af7910

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 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 would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for everything this term and to send you all our warmest wishes for the holiday. We will look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

Sarah and the team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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!

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