

January 17th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We have lots of useful, exciting and hopefully interesting information for you in this newsletter. Observations are being sent regularly via Tapestry for all of our children and we will have more photos of our adventures in our next newsletter too. And so the information...

TOTS TUNES SESSION

Thursday 23rd January 2025, 11am to 12pm.

<https://soundscreativeprojects.co.uk/tots-tunes>

Tots Tunes are interactive, creative parent and baby (0-5s) classes with part songs from around the world, original tunes and a few dance moves! Tots Tunes is for local parents who want to connect with other like-minded people in the neighbourhood and have a bit of fun, listen to and sing some quality 'non-baby' acoustic music all accompanied by live string instruments and percussion.

Classes are led by founder and cellist Tara Franks.

COOKING WORKSHOPS - SOFR

A HUGE thank you to @GoodFoodOxford who are funding two cookery sessions for our families. These sessions are open to all families. Due to space we ask 1 adult to maximum two children (babies in arms will not count towards numbers)

Monday 10th February 10:00 - 11:30am and will be hosted by @GrandpontNurseryandChildcare.

Friday 14th February 10:00 - 11:30am at the @SouthOxfordFamilyRoom

Cooking Workshops for children and their adults



Monday 10th February 10:00 - 11:30am: SOFR sessions hosted by Grandpont Nursery School and Child Care



Friday 14th February, 10:00 - 11:30am: South Oxford Family Room.

Booking Essential - limited spaces!

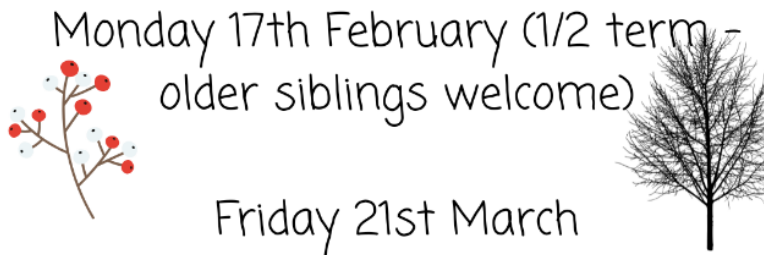


If you would like to book to attend one or both of these sessions, please complete the form in this link -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXLQ_hj3Hs61wZnAFnvgAG_EQYcr0xlePYOUGihnii-Anltw/viewform

FOREST SCHOOL SESSION

SOFR have very kindly offered for some of our Nursery children who attend on Fridays the opportunity to come along for the session. If your child does not attend nursery on a Friday and you're free to go along, please do.



Leaving at 10:15am. Snack for children provided and a marshmallow over the fire. Please wear long trousers and sleeves.

LOST ITEMS

Sadly sometimes items of clothing and water bottles can get mixed up and/or go missing. As always, please do ensure that everything that comes into Nursery is clearly named as this really helps us to ensure it gets back home to you. Many thanks.

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

HOME IS WHERE THE START IS

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/home-is-where-the-start-is-an-online-festival-of-fun-and-learning-tickets-1097149797579?aff=oddtcreator>

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.

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

With our very best wishes.

Sarah and the team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tots Tunes session - Thursday 23rd January 11am to 12pm

Cooking sessions - Monday 10th February, 10:00 - 11:30am. Grandpont Nursery School and Childcare.

Friday 14th February, 10:00 - 11:30am. South Oxford Family Room

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

HALF TERM HOLIDAY FUN



Hill End Family Forest Days

10am - 2pm

Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 February (half term)

- * Make a bird nesting box or bird feeder
- * Create a giant nest in our den building area, or make crafts in The Barn
- * Follow trails, climb - enjoy our space, woodlands & wetlands. **SO MUCH TO DO!**
- * Meet Oxford University bird researchers - ringing and monitoring the blue tits and great tits and you can learn more about the Wytham Woods Tit Project

£9 child / £11 adult

includes a jacket potato or soup

 Hill_end_centre  @HillEndOEC  @Hill_End

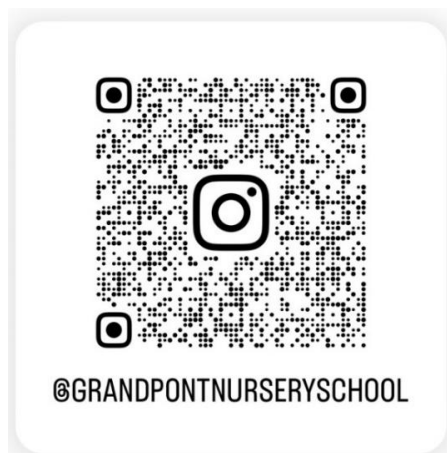
Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, OX2 9NJ 01865 863510



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/>



Instagram



Facebook

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/>

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...

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