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Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all having a good summer.

We are really looking forward to welcoming all the children when we return on Monday 9th September.

If you need to change any days/sessions for your child, then please let me know as soon as possible, thank you.

To all the new parents, we use the side gate as our main entrance and exit, where parents/carers/children can wait safely in the gated outside nursery play area until a member of the nursery staff opens the gate at the specified opening times. Please remember that on the notice board situated by the side gate there is a doorbell as well as up to date news and information for your interest.

**Staff News**

At the end of the Summer Term we said a sad goodbye to Nicki Masella who left after 10 years at the nursery, the last four of which she was Deputy Manager. We wish her the very best of luck in her new job. I am also very happy to say that Tilly Sullivan will be taking over as Deputy Manager when we return. Tilly has been at the nursery since 2020 and is a very valued member of the team. I am sure you will join me in congratulating her in her new role. Emma Lee will be taking on the role of Designated Safeguarding Lead. We will also be welcoming two new members of staff to the team. Michelle Turner, who has been on our bank staff since last November, will be joining permanently as an Early Years Assistant. Holly Fox will also be joining us as an Early Years Educator. Holly has over 6 years of experience in Early Years and will also be taking on the role of SENDCO.

**Fundraising Committee**

Due to their children leaving to go on to Reception Class, we said goodbye to three of our fundraising committee members, Adele Wingrave, Holly Doyne-Ditmas and Vicky Howard. They had been part of our fantastic fundraising team raising much needed funds for the nursery, for which we are extremely grateful. The money raised from the events they helped organise and run had enabled us to pay for things like the Dinosaur and Fossil Interactive Workshop that came to our nursery and to purchase necessary resources for the children, training for the staff and for our upcoming venture of Forest School sessions.

If you are interested in getting involved in fundraising ventures to help raise money for the nursery, please contact me and I will pass your details to the fundraising committee. We truly rely on money raised to purchase valuable resources for our nursery and the children.

**Forest School**

We are very excited to say that after the Autumn Half Term we will be implementing a Forest School program at the nursery. This will provide children with invaluable learning experiences that contribute to their holistic development.  By aligning with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and adhering to the six principles of Forest School, the program will ensure that children benefit from engaging, hands-on learning in a natural environment. As this is new to our nursery we will initially be doing a 6 week program each term which will consist of two morning sessions a week.  This program will be run by an external professional.  However, once we are more established and trained in the running of a Forest School we do have a long term goal of doing sessions each and every week.

I would also like to say that this will be included in the nursery fees and will not be an additional cost to parents/carers.

**New Software**

After much consideration we have decided to make the switch from our current nursery education software, Parent Zone, to Blossom Educational. We are extremely excited about this change and hope you will be too. Blossom is a secure online platform that will help us record and share the development of your child, along with some golden moments. You will be able to store all of your payment receipts and invoices within the Parent App. The system will also help you to book holiday/sickness, message us and view all our newsletters.

Blossom Educational are Early Years experts and nursery owners. They understand the

importance of building a strong partnership between the nursery and parents. This is why

they’ve put together an in-depth parent guide to run you through this implementation and to support us as a nursery through this journey (which I am attaching along with this newsletter).

We want to reassure you that this transition will be as smooth and as seamless as possible,

and will make a significant improvement to the way we interact with you about your child.

I am also attaching a permission letter for you to read, complete, sign and return to me. I will then be able to activate your access to the Blossom app. If you prefer, I will have hard copies of this letter at the nursery when we return.

**Toys From Home**

Please may we kindly ask that children do not bring in toys from home when they come to nursery. This is to avoid unnecessary distress to the child should their toy be accidentally broken or lost. If your child really cannot leave home without a toy, we will have a special box at nursery for home toys to live in whilst they are at nursery. However, children who are new to nursery and in their settling in period, we appreciate that they can often benefit from the comfort of a familiar object such as a favourite teddy or comforter.

**Term Dates 2024/2025**

I am attaching the term dates for 2024/2025 for your information.

**2024/2025 Funding Forms**

When we return, I will be handing out funding forms for those that are eligible for the FEET, Working Parents Entitlement for Two Year Olds, Universal 15 hours and Extended 30 hours a week free funded childcare. I would very much appreciate it if these could be completed, signed and returned to me as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Invoices**

Invoices will be generated in the new software via the parent app. Please note that we do not accept cash payments, I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. The preferred method of payment is bank transfer via online banking, details will be on the app. Invoices can be paid weekly, monthly or termly as long as final payment is received by the last day of the term.

**Diary Dates**

Monday 4th November – Nursery Closed

INSET DAY – Nursery Staff ‘Paediatric First Aid Training’.

Children In Need – Friday 15th November

During the week commencing Monday 11th November we will be raising money for this very worthwhile cause. BBC Children in Need is a charity that provides grants and funding to projects based in the UK that have the aim of helping disadvantaged children and young people. This year Pudsey is teaming up with Peppa Pig to do fundraising parties.

Sunday 24th November – Nursery Christmas Market

More details to follow.

Monday 25th November – ‘Town Mouse and Country Mouse’ Pied Piper Theatre Production

We are very excited to be welcoming the Pied Piper Theatre Company to perform their production ‘Town Mouse and Country Mouse’. An enchanting story from Aesop's much loved and heartwarming tale told with puppetry, music and magical design. **All nursery children are invited.** Reception Class, Years 1,2 and 3 from St Mary’s School will also be joining us to watch this production. More details to follow.

Friday 20th December (last day of term) – Nursery Nativity

More details to follow.

**Now for the obligatory information………**

Please remember to bring your child with a named coat and a named bag with a change of clothes, and a named bottle of water. Also, if possible, a pair of named wellington boots as we will be doing excursions around our beautiful village.

We do not allow any sugary drinks at our setting. If your child will be staying for lunch please put your child’s name clearly on the lunch bag/box as sometimes we may have more than one of the same design. As before please adhere to our healthy eating ……………



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Leigh and the Nursery Team