

Gloucester Nursery School

Newsletter

January 2021

This newsletter contains important information for you about Gloucester Nursery School

Dear Parents/Carers, Welcome back – I hope everyone had an enjoyable break and Happy New Year although it was different from usual! From the children talking to each other and to members of staff, I know that they all had a very exciting Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations. Since the return in January, a new bubble has been created and consists of a mixture of G2 and Nurture Nest children: the maximum number in the bubble is 13. G3 have a bubble of 16 children. I am sure all the children will settle quickly into their new bubble and enjoy their time at the Nursery. Please remember that if you have any worries or problems however trivial they may seem please phone the nursery (**01604 762251**) or email: head@gloucester.northants-ecl.gov.uk

Best Wishes *Julia*

Working in partnership with parents – Important dates and information for all parents/carers of children attending Gloucester Nursery School

COVID-19:

A big thank you to all parents, children and staff in keeping Gloucester Nursery School COVID Secure from September to December. Please keep vigilant by:

- Keeping children at home if they are ill or feeling poorly
- Stay at home if you are unwell
- Phone into the office if your child is absent from nursery
- Immediately inform myself or Liz, our school business manager of any COVID test confirming a positive result (bursar@gloucester.northants-ecl.gov.uk or head@gloucester.northants-ecl.gov.uk)
- Wash hands/sanitise before leaving home and when returning
- Wear a mask at drop off and pick up times (only 1 adult should be present)
- Maintain your distance from other parents/carers and members of staff
- Stagger the time you arrive at the nursery
- Sanitise children's lunchboxes daily



In the event of school closure – due to staff absence or adverse weather

In the event that staff are absent due to illness or self-isolating due to COVID-19 we possibly might have to close parts of the nursery. If an area is closed, we will contact you via Parent Mail and a notification will be placed on our website. www.gloucesternurseryschool.co.uk

Please check your e-mails regularly for information from the nursery.

Children's Learning:

We will continue to aim to follow your children's needs and interests, so the curriculum remains flexible. As the weather gets colder, please help your child to fully experience the outdoor curriculum play by providing them with suitable outdoor clothing and footwear. We have lots of exciting experiences planned for the term ahead.

Ideas to develop fine motor skills: To support your child's fine motor/ gross motor and hand skill development, practice squeezing, pinching and twisting to build strength in their hands, fingers and wrists. This skill is essential for taking off shoes and putting on welly boots, fastening and unfastening zips. Provide your child with a basket full of jars, bottles and containers, all with screw on lids. As well as the twisting motion, this activity encourages discussion about size, shape, sorting and has lots of opportunity for communication.

Developing mathematics – For older children or those with established early learning skills (see later page for ideas and websites to access)

- Counting out loud as far as they can
- Recognising two, three or four things without counting and showing 'finger numbers
- Giving two, three or four things when asked. Recognise number symbols
- Checking whether small amounts have been shared fairly
- Number hunts – finding seven leaves, getting three apples
- Talk about large numbers (Eg There must be at least 100 cars in the car park)
- Cooking; weighing, counting, mixing ingredients, using recipes with numbers of cupfuls and spoonfuls. Help to cut fruit up and share it out fairly
- Journeys: talk about routes and directions as well as important landmarks.

Always keep your children safe online.

One of the best ways to keep your family safe online and to understand your children's internet use is to use the internet together. Active engagement and conversations with your children are very important in helping to understand how they are using the internet.

- Make sure that one of your New Year's resolutions is to ensure that you have family internet rules for all members of your household. These rules need to clarify how the internet will be used at home and be clear about what information is safe to share online.
- Make sure you know what your children are doing online, just like you would in "real" life and use parental controls (on computers, mobile phones and games consoles) to help you do this. Remember, though, that these cannot always be 100% effective and are not a substitute for observing what's going on.
- Find out more about keeping your child safe online by visiting sites such as the UK Safer Internet Centre. A list of sites can be found on the school's safeguarding board.



3 and 4 year olds only:

Parents and Children - Things to do together

Personal and Social

Help your child to understand that all feelings are understandable and acceptable, including feeling angry, but that not all behaviours are.

Help your child to be responsible for personal items e.g. making sure gloves are kept together in a pocket or a bag or **putting on their coat by themselves – doing zips and buttons.**

Help your child to be even more independent by letting them help you when you are busy, like putting some shopping away or matching their own socks.



Mathematics

Talk about different sizes – heights; length; weights 'What size shoe do you take?'

Who is the tallest person in the family?

What is heavier – a tin of baked beans or a bottle of milk?

Encourage children to count objects – see how far they can count up to.

Give the children practical problems Eg.

'There are 3 bananas on the plate if I add 1 more how many would I have?'

Keep Talking!

Help your child to make connections when out and about, asking questions such as: 'Do you remember?' or 'What did we do when...?'

Talk about seasonal changes, and what can be seen. Encourage your child to explain *why* they think things happen e.g. how the road got to be all slippery when frozen.

Encourage your child to learn new things by answering their questions or helping them to talk through the answer for themselves.

Read together!

Make up silly sentences where each word begins with the same sound e.g. slippery, slimy snail.

Let your child use their toys and help them to retell/talk about the stories that you have shared.

When you read stories that your child knows really well, stop at different parts and let them tell you the missing word/s.

When doing things together help your child to look for letters that are important to them e.g. those from their name. Visit the website **phonicsplay** to help children with initial sounds.

Writing!

Encourage your child to write their name on cards, invitations and shopping lists.

Encourage them to mark make in different contexts.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Information for all parents

Opening times: Due to COVID-19 restrictions the nursery opening times are staggered. If you arrive later than the official start of the nursery please phone the office staff in order to notify staff in the designated area that you have arrived. Please be patient while staff come and greet you and your child.

1. Close all external gates
2. Only use mobile phones when you have left the school building.
3. Leave pushchairs in the external shelter in order to help with congestion.

Thank you

Attendance: Please can I remind you to phone if your child is ill and unable to attend the session. In the case of sickness and diarrhoea the nursery policy is keeping the child at home for **48 hours**. Please phone each day.

Collecting children – Please notify us if someone else is collecting your child. Children under the age of 16 are not allowed to collect children. At pick up times, can parents please wear a face mask and socially distance. The Family Worker will bring your child out to you.

Thank you.

Useful websites that support learning

Useful websites that you can use for 3 and 4 year olds:

- **Monster Music Factory**
- **Monster Birthday party**
- **Monster Frog Pond**
- **Touch Counts**
- **123 section Khan Academy Kids**
- **Oxfordowl.co.uk**
- **PBSkids.org**



TapestryBeing involved in children's learning both at the nursery and at home

Staff love nothing better than parents sending an observation and comment back to them on Tapestry regarding individual children's interests/play/events from home. This also helps us incorporate individual children's interests in to the curriculum. Please send us some observations of your child at home with comments.

Attendance:

Well done to the following children in G2: **Lochlan, Jack H, Leo and Everleigh** (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2020)

Well done to the following children in the Nurture Nest :

Jack C and Willow, (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2020)

Well done to the following children in G3: **Hugo, Herbie, Vinnie, Delilah, Estelle, Theo, Buddy, Josiah, Genevieve, Thomas, Rafferty, Harper SJ, Raseem, Gabriel and Alex** (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2020)

Governors:

Parent Governor:

A big thank you to Danielle Kearney for volunteering to be one of our Parent Governors. If you would like to contact her please send her an email via Liz the School Business Manager

(bursar@gloucester.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

Thank you.

Our next governors meeting is on Tuesday 23rd February 2021.

3 and 4 year olds only: Applying for a primary school place – September 2021:

You will need to apply to Northamptonshire County Council for a primary school place for September 2020. **The closing date is 15th January 2020 at 5 pm.**

Apply online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions. For more information call 01604 236599 or e-mail

admissions@northamptonshire.gov.uk

2 and 3 year olds wanting places at Gloucester Nursery:

If you know of a 2 or 3 year old needing a place for April or September please promote our nursery and ask them to contact our nursery office on 01604 762251.

A quote from a parent on our website

“This nursery is so passionate about the development of every child. The caring staff have such an in depth knowledge about creating an environment that caters for all needs and abilities. They ensure wellbeing is a main focus as well as providing a wide range of activities. They allow for risk taking and independence whilst creating a safe space for children. They plan thought-provoking activities and use tapestry to share these with parents. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend this nursery as both my children have thoroughly loved being there.”

How to teach your child to put on their coat independently

Follow the You Tube link below to find out how to teach your child to put their coat on independently.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J7Slnawmm0&safe=active>

School Website:

A big thank you to all the parents, Michelle, Danielle, Suhana, Louise, Vikki, Amy, Esther, Tabitha, Sharon, Sam, Lorraine and Gosia, that have left comments on our new website.

Wow! Have you seen our **new virtual tour of the nursery**. If you haven't seen it take a look!

We welcome any comments – to add comments please click on 'contact' – top toolbar and click on 'your comments'.

The address is:

www.gloucesternurseryschool.co.uk

We do value parent's comments and wanted to share the following that was recently posted on the school's website:

“A fantastic nursery with outstanding facilities - a lovely huge outdoor area which is well resourced. My child settled in from day one and has grown and grown in confidence. Thank you to all of the wonderful staff for being so nurturing and caring. He comes home every day telling us all about the different activities he's taken part in, stories he's heard and songs he's sung. We particularly like to see his paintings and woodwork. I like being updated via tapestry to see what he's been getting up to during the day and another good feature is being able to share what we do at home. “

Top tips for helping with sleeping routines:

- Make sure that your child's bedroom is quiet and that the lighting is dim. Don't use televisions or electrical items in the bedroom. At bedtime, close the curtains and make sure that toys are hidden away. You can use black-out blinds if necessary.
- Wake your child at the same time every morning, not before 6am, to reinforce their daily cycle.
- Stick to a regular bedtime and a consistent routine. A visual timetable can help your child to understand what is going to happen next in the countdown to bedtime.