

# Gloucester Nursery School

## Newsletter

**April 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers, Welcome back – I hope everyone had an enjoyable Easter break and have enjoyed some of the warmer days. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION. IT TELLS YOU WHAT IS HAPPENING OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. THANK YOU.

- The nursery is closed for May Day bank holiday on **Monday 3rd May**.
- The nursery closes for the May holidays at 4.30pm on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**, returning on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**.
- **G3** will be closed on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May** for the election of Councillors for the West Northamptonshire County Council and also for election of the Police, Fire and Commissioner for Northamptonshire and will reopen at **11.25 am on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May**. G3 is being used as a polling station from 7 am to 10 pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May and cleaning within the area will occur on Friday morning before the children return at 11.25 am. We are sorry for the inconvenience but as we are a Local Authority building, we are directed by the County for the building to be used as a polling station for the local community.

### Keeping Gloucester Nursery School CoVid Secure

We are all working hard to keep Gloucester Nursery School CoVid secure. Thank you for all your support over the past few months. Thank you to all staff, including the cleaners, who continue to work tirelessly following a rigorous cleaning schedule and maintaining a safe environment for everyone. From the beginning of February staff have undertaken lateral flow tests twice a week at home to detect asymptomatic cases. We urge all families to get twice-weekly rapid Covid testing.

Please support us in keeping Gloucester Nursery CoVid secure:-

- Wear a mask at drop off and pick up times.
- Sanitise (or wash) your hands and your child's hands when leaving home and when returning from Nursery.
- Sanitise your child's lunch box daily.
- Maintain the 2 metre rule with other parents and staff.
- If your child is feeling unwell please keep them at home.
- Please keep us informed about CoVid testing.



### Tapestry Observations:

Every week staff work really hard to send you a tapestry observation of a significant piece of learning related to your child. It is really great when parents reply either to the Tapestry observation sent from Nursery or with a photograph and observation of their child at home. This enables us to build up a complete picture of the child's learning and development as well as providing ideas of the child's interest that we can incorporate into the provision we offer the children. Please send us some more observations and comments via Tapestry – staff really enjoy reading what children are learning to do at home.

Supporting your child's learning and development from 22<sup>nd</sup> April, we will be sending you practical ideas to support your child's learning and development via Parentmail. This will also include teaching your child some sign language.

Please remember that if you have any worries or problems however trivial they may seem, do talk to your child's family worker or myself.

**Best wishes**

*Julia*

## **Children's Learning**

### **Children in the 2 year provision (G2):**

Hooray for Spring; brighter and sunnier days with the occasional drops of rain. Perfect ingredients for a rainbow but also perfect conditions for playful fun and learning in the outdoors. Staff continue to plan for and respond to your child's individual interests and developmental needs; this term you may hear your child sing new songs and perhaps they may use some simple signs when doing so.

The children in G2 will be exploring their garden area through a range of experiences such as planting and watering, painting outside on a larger scale, learning how to move their body in different ways confidently and developing their bike skills and through the enhanced outdoor learning experience (previously referred to as 'The Mud Kitchen.')

The children continue to develop their independence at snack time and this term they will build on their skills by learning how to use a knife when spreading butter and jam onto their toast.

Parents and Children –

Things to do to support your child's learning at home and Nursery (G2):

- Go on a walk to a park and run up/roll down the hill. Can you move in other ways? Slither like a snake, jump like a frog, hop like a rabbit?
- Let your child practice dressing themselves eg. taking off their shoes, putting on welly boots. Encourage your child to select and attempt to put on suitable clothing for outdoor play; talk to your child about their choices and reasons why e.g. explaining why they need wellies when its muddy.
- Let your child help get their lunch ready by cutting the cheese or banana and spreading butter onto toast.
- Draw your child's attention to the nature surrounding them eg. ladybirds and worms, trees, the smell and colour of the flowers. What do they notice?

## **Children's Learning**

### **Children in the Nurture Nest and in the main Nursery (G3):**

In the summer term, we will further explore our planting/nature theme: talking about how plants grow and what they need to keep them alive. As we continue to dig over the ground, we will be identifying mini beasts (learning new vocabulary; looking at reference books and websites to gain information about mini-beast habitats and how to look after them). We will be learning about life cycles and habitats.

Children in the Nurture Nest and in G3 will be enjoying the benefits of the warmer weather – exercising, using small games equipment and discussing the effects of exercise on their bodies. Healthy eating, personal hygiene and the importance of sleeping and relaxing will also be discussed.

Children in G3 will be making resources for our garden of surprise! Keep looking on Tapestry for further developments.

### 3 and 4 year olds only:

#### Parents and Children - Things to do

Children transferring from the Nursery to Primary School in September 2021 will be learning more about letters and sounds. To support their learning at home why not help them by developing your understanding of phonics. There is lots of material available on the website to watch. Look on YouTube e.g. Parents and Carers guide to Pronouncing Phonemes; Jolly Phonics – Learn the letter sounds in Jolly Phonics.

##### Literacy and Mathematics

- ☺ Look for letters and numbers in the environment and play games like 'I spy' and start to say the first sound in words.
- ☺ Practice counting different objects and finding the correct number to match.
- ☺ Encourage your child to use positional language such as 'behind,' 'next to,' 'under,' 'on top,' and 'in front.'
- ☺ Look for patterns in the environment. Can your child finish off pattern you have started?

##### Feelings and behaviour

Talk openly with your child about their responses and emotions and...

- ☺ ...Help them to understand that when people are busy they must wait and an adult will focus on them when appropriate.
- ☺ ...Help them to adapt their behaviour so that they begin to understand that sometimes you can't always do the things that you want to do because there are consequences.



##### Some more tips to encourage talking

- ☺ Talk about patterns you can see when you are out and about.
- ☺ Encourage your child to experiment and answer questions such as: "what would happen if...?" or "I wonder if...."
- ☺ Go and explore your garden or local park. What wildlife can you spot and name? If you have a digital camera you could use it to record what you find and then recall your visit as you look at the photos taken.
- ☺ Use Tapestry as a way of talking about what they have done. This works brilliantly at home and at school.

##### Some more tips to encourage independence and confidence

Encourage your child to gain in confidence by trying new things.

Encourage your child's independence by seeing what they can do for themselves.

Encourage your child to do their zips or buttons up on their jackets

**Tips to increase independence:** The year is speeding by and our thoughts are just beginning to turn to supporting some of our children in their exciting journeys towards going to primary school at the end of the Summer Term

**Family workers will be:**

- Encouraging children to widen their friendship groups.
- Encouraging the children to try new things and to see an activity through to the end.
- Encouraging the children to motivate themselves/follow through on an activity.
- Developing their listening and concentration skills in both small and larger groups.

**You can continue to help us by:**

- ☞ Encouraging your child to hang up their things when coming into nursery or when they are not wearing them.
- ☞ Showing your child how to manage his/her clothing – buttons and zips; taking clothes off carefully; putting on shoes independently.
- ☞ Helping your child to write some or all of the letters in their name.
- ☞ Helping your child to further improve their concentration skills by completing the activities that they have started.
- ☞ Through everyday conversations encouraging your child to tell you/others about what they need, want, things they like to do and talking openly about dislikes.
- ☞ Helping your child to understand to keep trying even when things may get tricky for them.



***General Information for all parents***

***Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility. Please can parents:***

- 1. Only use mobile phones when you have left the school perimeter;***
- 2. Leave pushchairs in the external shelter in order to help with congestion***

*Thank you*

Illness..... 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.

Parking .... As you are aware the nursery has no car park! We rely on the goodwill of the local residents. To maintain the goodwill please show consideration when parking, avoid parking in front of the bungalows next to the nursery. To avoid congestion and improve safety for all, please can parents' park away from the nursery building and walk a short distance to the entrance.

## Lunch Boxes

Children have approximately 30 minutes to eat their packed lunch. Please provide foods that your children will eat and do not pack too much. Please remember our remit of healthy foods at snack time and healthy lunch boxes.

Some children that attend lunchtime sessions might have allergies and can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction.

Please ensure you do not pack any of the following in your child's lunch box:-

- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Chocolate spreads
- Cereal bars
- Some granola bars
- Cakes containing nuts
- Biscuits/cookies that contain nuts
- Snickers bars and similar
- Peanut butter cakes
- Kiwi fruit



## Attendance and Punctuality

We recognise that attendance is a significant factor in encouraging your children to make excellent progress in nursery. We offer so many wonderful experiences but your child will only access them and develop friendships if they are here. Please make sure your child attends everyday unless they are ill. In the event that they are ill please phone us every day your child is absent from Nursery.

## Collecting Children:

Please notify us if someone other than a parent/carer is collecting a child on any day. Children under the age of 16 are not allowed to collect children. At pick up times, a Family Worker will 'hand your child over to you' and if information needs to be passed on they will do so.



Please view our website for information and to look at events that have happened over the week – you can even comment on it.

[www.gloucesternurseryschool.co.uk](http://www.gloucesternurseryschool.co.uk)

## Places in G2 or G3 for September 2021

If you know of any families looking for places for 2 or 3 year olds please ask them to contact Sue or Nikki in the office. Please promote the Nursery in your local area.

Please like our Facebook page "Gloucester Nursery School" and put some comments on it.

