

# Gloucester Nursery School

## Newsletter

November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

### PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER - IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I hope everyone had an enjoyable week's break. We only have 7 weeks to go until Christmas so nursery is going to be busier and we will be having lots of fun. 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). 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. We have planned some fun experiences for the children. The observations and videos that parents/carers are sending back to us in the nursery are fantastic. Please keep the observations coming!

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November (Children in Need Day) G2 and G3** – An opportunity for the children to come to Nursery wearing their pyjamas, Pudsey outfits, clothes with spots on or anything yellow. If you wish to make a donation please do so using the national website



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

**Christmas at Gloucester Nursery:** We hope to invite parents to an outdoor Christmas celebration where children will sing and perform the Nativity. We would like to raise money for outdoor equipment for the G2 and G3 areas by children being sponsored to sing by family and friends. More details will follow.

The magician is due to perform magic tricks for G2 and G3 children on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December** and all children will enjoy a Christmas party on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

The nursery (G2 and G3) closes for Christmas on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**. The nursery reopens to children on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

Best wishes and Happy Christmas everyone!

*Julia*

## Changes at Gloucester Nursery School:

After 17 years as the Headteacher at Gloucester Nursery School, I have decided to take early retirement and will be leaving on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. I am very proud of how the nursery has developed over time and will miss the children, families and staff at the nursery greatly. We will shortly be interviewing for a new Headteacher and I will keep you updated on any developments.



On behalf of the staff and governors at Gloucester Nursery School, I wish Liz success in her new role as a finance advisor with Northamptonshire Police. Liz has worked at the nursery for six years and has been an amazing school business manager. We are currently advertising the post.



I am pleased to welcome Karishma Chugh as the new Chair Person for the nursery's governing body. We have one new child joining the G3 provision in November. In January 2023, 4 new children will join the G2 provision and 5 children from G2 will move into G3. They will also be joined by 5 new children coming into G3.

## Children's Learning

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

A big thank you to all of the families who came to our singing session at the end of last term, we will continue with our daily singing sessions with the children and are happy to let you know that we will be doing another singing session soon.

The weather will no doubt become colder so the children will continue to develop their independence by learning to put on/remove coats and welly boots. Please ensure that your child has the right clothing to be able to explore the outdoor area – whatever the weather.

This coming term the children will be venturing out and about in the local community with the children taking the lead and choosing where they would like to go and explore. Please speak to your child's family worker if you or a member of your family would like to come and help.

### **G2 – Things to do at home with your child to support their learning**

Children in G2 are developing their hand skills, often referred to as fine motor skills. Most fine motor skills also involve the coordination of both hands and eyes. Children use fine motor skills when eating, cutting, turning pages in a book, building towers with blocks, buttoning clothing and holding small items.

Playing with playdough is fun and helps to strengthen fine motor skills in many ways such as rolling, squeezing, pinching, twisting, poking, patting and building with it.

To help your child strengthen their fine motor skills why not have a go at making your own playdough at home, it's very easy to make.

### **Recipe for playdough**

You will need:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 4 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 2 cups of boiling water

Method:

- Mix all ingredients together in a bowl.
- Sprinkle the table with flour and knead the playdough until it becomes a good consistency.
- Add more flour to the table if needed.
- If you would like to add food colouring, essences or herbs please do so when you add the water. Children like strong smells such as cinnamon, cocoa powder, lemon, vanilla, orange, the choices are endless.
- Keep in an airtight container and store in the fridge.

**Other ideas.....**

- Count with your child as you put their clothes on, like "one sock, two socks" or "one button, two buttons, three buttons, four buttons".
- Talk to your child about what clothes they will need now the weather is changing and why?
- Let your child play with puzzles that they have, to try and put the piece into the matching space.
- Share stories with your child that are about families, celebrations and the world around them.

## Children's Learning

### Children in the 3 year provision (G3)

This term the children will be celebrating various events including Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas. The children will have the opportunity of working with Piper, our artist in residence as well as explore the local community. More details will follow. The children will be encouraged to become scientists and will be exploring and investigating lots of different things as well as caring for our nursery allotment – digging the soil over and planting some winter vegetables.

**Early Reading tips: When our children are very young, there is a lot we can do to include them in the world of reading. We can aim to build up motivation so that our children WANT to learn to read. Why not try some of the following...**

- ☺ Talk, talk, talk – We know that talking helps reading!
- ☺ Parents who read – It's vital that children understand that reading is something adults do. If your child sees that you value books and enjoy reading, then they will want to have a go themselves.
- ☺ A special time for sharing books – regularly reading books to a child is the best way to involve them in the world of reading. A cuddle and story is a perfect lovely way to end a busy day!
- ☺ Follow your child's interests - choose books carefully.
- ☺ Songs and Nursery rhymes – these are great for building pre-reading skills, such as memorising words.
- ☺ Signs and Labels around us: Involve your child as you read simple print around you. Point out signs, labels, read birthday cards, and text messages aloud so that your child understands that print carries meaning.
- ☺ Talk about the text: Whether it be a book, comic or eBook talk about it before sharing and ask your child to talk about what is happening, what they can see and invite them to begin to think about what might happen next.

***Please try not to focus too much on trying to teach your child particular reading skills during the early stages, just enjoy sharing and discussing texts together. Obviously children will progress at different levels. Details relating to the development of speech and phonics can be found in the leaflet that will be sent to you next week.***



***Always keep your children safe online!***

**Find out more about keeping your child safe online by going to [www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents). Please read the online safety information leaflet**

## 3 and 4 year olds only: Parents and Children - Things to do

### Mathematics

- ☞ Count different objects encouraging your child to point to each item and say the number name.
- ☞ Support your child in telling you how many items there are altogether
- ☞ Play a game with a dice – count the spots
- ☞ Go on a number hunt.

### Personal and Social

- ☞ Encourage your child to become more independent by helping them learn to put on and do up their own coat or to put on their own hat and scarf
- ☞ Play turn taking games with members of the family
- ☞ Name and talk about a wide range of feelings.



### Make marks!

- ☞ Encourage them to make a line, squiggle, mark or use letter like symbols or even letters to represent an idea.
- ☞ Encourage your child to write in cards and to make shopping lists
- ☞ Praise your child for their writing and ask them to read it to you
- ☞ Some children might be interested in copying the letters in their name

### Keep Talking!

- ☞ Encourage your child to talk about the technology (TV, microwave, remote controls, battery operated toys etc.) they use at home and to discuss how these items help us in our everyday lives.
- ☞ Encourage your child to look at and discuss changes in the natural and manmade environment e.g. Ask them to tell you exactly what they can see or ask thought provoking questions such as; why is the squirrel burying the acorns or can you explain why the Christmas lights have suddenly appeared in the Market Square?

Remember that... children often need more time than adults to think about what they have heard, and to decide what to say back. Give them time to respond and look at them while you wait.

### Letters and Sounds

- ☞ Please read the leaflet "Letters and Sounds" that will be given to you next week.
- ☞ Try some of the activities.

### **General Information for all parents**

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

1. **Close all external gates**
2. Only use mobile phones when you have left the school grounds.

**Attendance:** It is important for your child to have regular attendance at the nursery. Failure to do so often results in children having difficulties in settling into routines, gaining friends and also in the progress and achievement they make. Although the children's attendance is not statutory, the Governors, Local Authority and Ofsted do request information on attendance figures.

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 walk to the entrance.

### **Lockdown Procedures in the event of an emergency**

It is good practice for schools to have 'lock down' procedures in place. Lockdown procedures should be seen as a sensible and proportionate response to any external incident that has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of children and adults in the setting.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical might be:

1. A reported incident or disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to children and adults in the nursery)
2. An intruder onsite (with the potential to pose a risk to children and adults in the nursery)
3. A warning being received regarding an environmental risk locally, of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc.)
4. A major fire in the vicinity of the nursery

In the event that we need to activate this procedure, parents **SHOULD NOT**:

- **Contact the Nursery during lockdown as this could block telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency services**
- **Should not come to the Nursery during lockdown as this may place themselves and others in danger**
- **Wait for the Nursery to contact them about when it is safe for them to come and collect their child.**

Our Lockdown Policy is available for parent/carers to read on the Nursery website (please refer to the safeguarding section).



## Parents Consultations with Family Workers

Please can parents 'sign up' for a 10 minute consultation with your child's family worker. The appointment times will be displayed in the cloakroom a week prior to the appointment times.

- Green Crocodile Parents Consultations – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November between 2.50 and 4pm.
- Red Foxes – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November – 2.50 – 4pm.
- Blue Parrots – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November – 2.50 – 4pm.

G2 from 5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> December – More details to follow.

## Governors

Gloucester Nursery School is supported by a dedicated Governing Body that meet once a term. The role of the governing body is to support myself and the staff in maintaining the high standards of learning and teaching and the quality of care across the setting. Progress and development work within the nursery is achieved by a shared vision of aiming for excellence and by governors challenging Gloucester to constantly improve standards through their role as 'critical friend.' Parent governors represent the views of parents on the Governing Body.

The Governing Body meet in the evening to discuss matters such as health and safety; staffing; premises and finance. We have a delegated budget and this means additional responsibilities for the Governing Body. Our second meeting for this academic year is in February. If you have issues/concerns that need to be raised at the Governors meeting please contact Karishma Chugh, Parent Governor (via the school office).

## Focus Children – G2 and G3

Every fortnight, a few children from each provision are chosen to be focus children. Family Workers will ask you to send in observations from home. All staff will observe the children and write a learning story about the children's development. At the end of the fortnight parents are invited in to discuss their child's learning and development with the Family Worker.

## 3 and 4 year olds only:

### Applying for a primary school place – September 2023

You will need to apply to Northamptonshire County Council for a primary school place for September 2023. Apply online at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions). For more information call 01604 236599 or e-mail [admissions@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

**CLOSING DATE: 5pm on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Emergency School Closures** – Following a recent meeting of the school Governors, it has been agreed that in the event of the school closing due to circumstances out of our control (snow/flood etc.), we will no longer credit nursery sessions or wraparound sessions for the affected day.

## Attendance and Punctuality

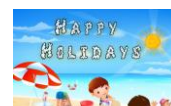
We recognise that attendance is a significant factor in encouraging your children to make excellent progress in nursery. We offer so many wonderful experiences but your child will only access them and develop friendships if they are here. Please make sure your child attends everyday unless they are ill. Arriving on time is also essential for your child to be greeted, settled and best placed to learn and thrive in education.

Well done to the following children in G3: Loredana, Dexter, Teddy P, Luca C & Freya (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2022).

Well done to the following children in G2: Precious, Reece, Luca G, Freddie H, Henry, Teddy K, Nikita, Francesca, Luna, Orla, Joshua O, Rory & Emily (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2022).

## Holiday forms:

If you are going on holiday during school time, please can you complete a holiday form and return it to the office. Forms can be obtained from the office. As from September 2013, I can no longer give authorised absences for holidays – authorised absence will only be given in exceptional circumstances.





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about TODDLERS & SCREEN TIME

The toddler years are full of excitement, exploration and energy. It's a critical time in children's development, when brain connections are rapidly forming. Youngsters often begin to discover devices around this age, as they learn to communicate with friends, play games and watch videos (Ofcom recently found, for example, that one in five 3-4-year-olds in the UK uses social media). These activities can make a child happy and relaxed but have a damaging impact if overused. Setting screen time limits for toddlers can be a challenge, so we've pulled together some suggestions for making sure your little one is interacting with the online world in a safe, healthy way.

## ONLINE SAFETY CHECKLIST

### ✓ PARENTAL CONTROLS

Children need to be shielded from content that's not age appropriate. You can do this by adjusting parental controls and safe search settings on the devices, apps and games they use.

### ✓ ONGOING SUPERVISION

Try to stay engaged and present in what your child is doing digitally. Make time to talk about what they enjoy and how they can stay safe online.

### ✓ OFFERING HELP

Teach your toddler to ask for help – and that they should always tell a trusted adult if they're unsure about anything to do with a device, or they see or hear something that makes them scared or upset.

### ✓ COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Emphasise that your child should check with you before they do anything online for the first time – such as watching a new show, playing a new game or exploring a new app.

### ✓ FACE TO FACE IS ACE

Support toddlers' development of language and other skills by prioritising games or apps that encourage face-to-face interaction – like learning to read or count with an adult.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MODEL IT

Your toddler is watching and learning from you whenever you pick up your phone. Even babies are aware of screens and the attention their parents give to them. By showing you know when to put your phone down and focus on something else, you're modelling an important behaviour for them.

### CONTROL IT

Use tech to control tech. Most devices and individual apps have settings that allow you to restrict screen time. Decide on the right length of time and use the settings or a timer to block access. This is especially useful for very young children, who simply see it as the device 'turning off'.

### ANNOUNCE IT

When a toddler's screen shuts off suddenly, it can lead to frustration and tears. Let your little one mentally prepare for the end of screen time by announcing they have five minutes left, two minutes left and so on. You could also set an egg-timer, alarm or buzzer to go off just before time's up.

### DELAY IT

Try to avoid letting children start their day with screen time. Once they're online, it can be hard to get them back offline – and can set a negative tone for the rest of the day. Routine and structure are important for toddlers, so encourage them to enjoy some other activities before the screens go on.

### TRADE IT

You could try offering rewards and alternatives in exchange for screen time – for example, having a device-free day to get a playdate with a friend at the weekend, or skipping screen time one evening in return for a trip to the ice cream parlour tomorrow.

### EARN IT

Screen time can definitely be used as a reward. You could opt for the classic "no screen time until you've tidied up your toys" or you could get creative and award screen time in relation to successful tasks: eating all of their vegetables earns 10 minutes on their device, for example.

### REMOVE IT

Keep family mealtimes, social gatherings, children's bedrooms and other important occasions and places screen free. Remember to turn off TVs that you aren't watching, because even background noise can distract from you spending quality face-to-face time with your young ones.

### SWAP IT

Put together a bag of things that your children love playing with – and get them to help choose what goes in there (items like stickers, pens, small toys, Lego or teddy bears are ideal). Then encourage them to pick something to play with from "the special bag of fun" instead of staring at a screen.

## Meet Our Expert

Cailey Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa: a reporting system currently being used to combat bullying in schools and businesses around the world. FaceUp helps to give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up against unacceptable behaviour.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx> | [https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/234809/children-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234809/children-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf) | <https://blogs.kcolleageid.edu/10-strategies-for-managing-screen-time/> | [https://www.babycenter.com/child/activities-and-play/screen-time-tips\\_10408990](https://www.babycenter.com/child/activities-and-play/screen-time-tips_10408990) | <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/screen-time-baby-toddlers>



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