

Gloucester Nursery School

Newsletter

November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER - IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

I hope everyone had an enjoyable week's break. We only have just over 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. 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 – we have seen children cooking, learning to box, and karaoke. Please keep the observations coming!

Please make a note of these dates:

Parents Consultations in G3: Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th November – Sign up for an appointment in the cloakroom.

G2 staff will meet parents the week beginning 18th November.

Friday, 15th November (Children in Need Day) G3 and G2 – An opportunity for the children to come to Nursery wearing their pyjamas and make a donation to Children in Need if they wish.



Week commencing Monday 9th December – We will be collecting Food for the Food Bank. More details to follow.

Stay and Play Creative Christmas and Sponsored Sing Songs: G2's on Friday 13th December and G3's on Monday 16th December – all families welcome. More details to follow.

Friday 20th December: Christmas Party Day for G2 children.

Friday 20th December: Christmas Party Day for G3 children. Please note - The Nursery session in G3 will be slightly shorter to allow staff to set up and pack away. The morning session will start at **9.30 until 11.30 am** and the afternoon session will start **1.15 until 3.15 pm**.

[The G2 provision will be closed on Thursday 12th December as the G2 building is needed as a polling station by Northampton Borough Council for the General Election. We are obliged to hand over the G2 building for this and have no option but to close for the day.](#)

The nursery (G2 and G3) closes for Christmas on Friday **20th December at 3.15pm**. The children accessing tea club in G3 will finish at 4.30pm. The nursery reopens to children on **Monday 6th January 2020**.

Best wishes and Happy Christmas everyone!

Julia

Children's Learning

Children in the 2 year provision (G2)

This term the children will be adding to their repertoire of songs by learning new Festive songs with some signing too. The sensory/messy play will also develop to support children's learning/exploration based on their interests. Please use Tapestry or speak to your child's Family Worker about their current interests.

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.

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 air tight container and store in the fridge.

Children's Learning

Children in the main nursery (G3)

Please look at displays in the Reception area – the WOW! Display changes every week, highlighting some of the exciting experiences the children engage in. The 'Focus Children' display in the cloakroom is changed every fortnight. Every child's photograph will be put on the display over the year. Over the fortnight the 8 children on the display are observed by all members of staff in different areas of the nursery. Staff read the observations, meet the parents and devise some next steps for the children's learning and development.

Over the next few weeks, the children in G3 will become Gloucester Scientists - exploring and investigating materials and objects. Watch out for the slime and erupting volcanoes!

G3 – Things to do at home with your child to support their learning

At home: use the journey to Nursery to encourage observation. Play games together in the car; I Spy, Can you see? etc. to encourage interaction. Do the children know their address? The town or Country they live in? Also, to encourage fine motor skills, ask your child to practice doing up buttons, poppers and zips on clothing.

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 and labels and 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 the leaflet sent home with sent home with this newsletter.



Always keep your children safe online!

Find out more about keeping your child safe online by going to www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.

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.

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.
- ↳ Name and talk about a wide range of feelings.



Make marks!

- ↳ Value your child as a writer.
- ↳ Encourage them to make a line, squiggle, mark or use letter like symbols or even letters to represent an idea.
- ↳ Praise your child for their writing and ask them to read it to you.

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.

Developing Independence

- ↳ Please can children walk into the Nursery and leave in that way.
- ↳ Remember they will be going to school in September 2020.

General Information for all parents

Opening times: The main doors to the nursery will not open until 10 minutes before the nursery sessions start. Parents waiting will be encouraged to wait in the library and share a book with their child.

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

1. **Close all external gates**
2. Only let staff release the external doors in order to supervise who is coming into the school building.
3. Only use mobile phones when you have left the school building.
4. Keep away from the children's toilets. Only staff are permitted in this area.
5. Leave pushchairs in the external shelter in order to help with congestion.

A safeguarding leaflet is attached to this newsletter. Please spare a few minutes to read it. Thank you

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

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 which 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).

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE - please note there is a change to our published calendar. The first Bank Holiday in May 2020 has been changed from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May. Therefore the nursery will be open on Monday 4th and closed on Friday 8th.

Fundraising: Huge thanks to one of our parents who works for Royal Mail. They have managed to secure us a donation of £250!! This will go towards to cost of Piper the artist 😊.

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 January. If you have issues/concerns that need to be raised at the Governors meeting please contact **Jane Page** Parent Governor (via the school office). **If you would like to be a Parent Governor please see Julia or Liz in the office.**

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.



3 and 4 year olds only:

Applying for a primary school place – September 2020

You will need to apply to Northamptonshire County Council for a primary school place for September 2020.

Apply online at

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions. For more information call 01604 236599 or e-mail **admissions@northamptonshire.gov.uk**

CLOSING DATE: 5pm on 15 January 2020

AED!!! – We now have an Automated External Defibrillator on site. Thanks to the wonderful fundraising from past parents and children, we were able to purchase the AED and it is now located in the work zone.

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: Caitlyn, Freddie, Scarlett-Rose, Millie L, Amelie, Millie P, Raeleigh, Jasmine, Aiden, Saham, Arabella, Thomas W (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2019)

Well done to the following children in G2: Morgan, Willow, Thomas, Ayesha, Chloe (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2019)