

Gloucester Nursery School

Newsletter

January 2020

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. From talking to the children I know that they all had a very exciting Christmas and thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations. I am delighted to welcome new children into the Nursery - 3 in G2; 18 in the Nurture Nest as well as new staff. Tracey will be joining the staff in the Nurture Nest and Claire Fursey is returning from maternity leave to work in the afternoons, also in the Nurture Nest. I am sure the children and staff will settle quickly and enjoy their time at the Nursery. 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*

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

A big thank you to all parents/families and friends in G2 and G3 for your donations of food, toiletries etc which we have passed on to the Earths Lonely Angels, a local charity which passes out supplies during winter to homeless and elderly people.



In the event of snow and the possibility that the school may have to close we would advise parents to check the school website: www.gloucesternurseryschool.co.uk Select School Info and then select School closure. Please note that School Closures are no longer notified on the Northamptonshire County Council website.



Children and their parents can visit the library in the reception area at the beginning and end of a nursery session. Books and story sacks are available for you to borrow. Story sacks borrowed cost £1.00 a week and can be taken out on a Thursday.

Artist in residence in G3: Each Family Worker group has the opportunity to work with Piper our artist in residence every Wednesday. Look out for the creations on display in the nursery and in the Nurture Nest.

Drama sessions in G3 on a Monday afternoon : From 13th January to 10th February children in G3 will take part in a drama session.

Forest Schools: Over the next few months, all the children in G3 will have the opportunity to experience Forest School. **The Green Crocodile Group will attend on: Monday 13th, 20th 27th January and 3rd February.** Please see Kerry for more details. If your child does not attend the Monday sessions they can still enjoy the experience of Forest Schools but a family member will need to accompany them for the session to help with ratios.

The nursery closes for a week's holiday on Friday 14th February (breakfast, lunch and tea club as usual) and reopens on Monday 24th February.

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. All the children will have a visit from Dave Sharpe from Raptorxotics with his amazing creatures. **Share your child's achievements with us using Tapestry.**

Children in the 2 year old provision (G2): 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.

Children in the Nurture Nest (NN) will be learning new routines, doing some cooking as well as setting up a new mud kitchen in the nursery garden. Once the children have settled and learnt the new routines they will be visiting the local shops and spending some time in G3.

Children in the main nursery (G3) If you have an interest or hobby that you would like to share with the children please see your child's Family Worker. In the past, we have had parents gardening with the children, demonstrating cementing bricks to make a wall, a nurse has taken temperatures and a hairdresser has platted hair.

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**.

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?



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.

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

1. **Close all external gates. If you see a parent leave the gate open please speak to them!!!!**
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.*

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.*

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, please can parents enter the nursery quietly and allow the Family Worker to organise the hand over.*

Thank you.



TapestryBeing involved in children's learning

Tapestry is our online app which enables you to participate in your child's early years learning and development. It provides an interactive platform for an ongoing 3-way dialogue between the child, their family and the nursery team so that your child's learning opportunities can be shared, enhanced and built-upon as they grow and learn at Gloucester Nursery School. If you would like some input as to how to use this really simple app, please let us know and we can arrange an informal tutorial with our parent volunteers who are using Tapestry confidently.

Attendance:

Well done to the following children in G3 :
Millie, Jasmine, Aiden & Saham. (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2019)

Well done to the following children in G2 :
Morgan, Indie, Willow & Laney. (children whose attendance has been 100% since September 2019)

A massive thank you to all of the children and parents, we raised an amazing £766.20 from the sponsored sing song and £106 from the raffle!!!

Governors:

Please help us we need 2 Parent 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 next meeting is on Monday, 2nd March at 6.00 pm

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.



School Website:

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

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. **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.ov.uk**



We will be using a new system called ParentMail for all communications to parents, look out for instructions coming soon.

Parent Helpers

We are always grateful for any help you can give us. If you would like to help regularly or occasionally, please come and have an informal chat with me. We hope to have one parent helping at every nursery session. A DBS form (was called CRB) needs to be completed beforehand. Thank you