

Gloucester Nursery School

Newsletter

January 2018

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 - 9 in G2 and 22 in the Nurture Nest as well as new staff. I am sure the children and staff will settle quickly and enjoy their time at the Nursery. Emma and Hannah are the Family Workers for the Red Fox children; Shell is the Family Worker for the children in the Nurture Nest and Claire is the new Nursery Worker who will spend her time in G2 in the mornings and G3 in the afternoons. 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)

This term the children and staff will be welcoming new children to G2.

Our seasonal interest board and table are all about winter. We will be looking at wildlife in our local environment, exploring the weather and finding out what we need to wear to enable us to have fun in all weathers.

I wonder how do you and your children explore the outdoors in the different types of weather? There are 'bubbles' for you and your child to write down your thoughts and ideas about winter time.

Our book of the term is called 'Oh dear' by Rod Campbell. The children will be sharing the story with their family workers.

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

Use puppets, toy people or animals when you are sharing one of your favourite stories.

Visit and join the local library for a wide range of books, story sacks and singing sessions.

How many puddles can you jump in?

Challenge your child by asking them to find a big and little stick.

Children in the main nursery (G3)

We have lots of exciting experiences planned for the term ahead and the items outlined below are just tasters. 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.

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.

Forest School: Over the next few months, all the children in G3 will have the opportunity to experience Forest School. **The Yellow Duck Group will attend on: 11th 18th 25th January and 1st February.** Please see Kim for more details.

Artist in residence: Each Family Worker group will also have the opportunity to work with Piper our artist in residence every Friday. Look out for the creations.

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

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.

Mathematics

Do some of the activities suggested in your 'Maths at home booklet' (attached to the newsletter)

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.

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.

Working in partnership with parents – Important dates and information for all parents/carers of children attending Gloucester Nursery School (G2 and G3)

A big thank you to all parents/families and friends of children in G2 and G3 for your generosity £23.15 was raised for Macmillan nurses and the donations for the food bank was tremendous.



The County have developed a web based school closure procedure. In the unlikely event that the Nursery is closed (e.g severe weather conditions) parents can access information from the County Council's website: <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/EducationandLearning/Parents/advice/Pages/closures.aspx> or listen to the local radio – Heart 96.6FM or BBC Radio Northamptonshire 104.2 and 103.6FM



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.



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



Stay and Play Sessions focusing on mathematical development – G2 – Thursday 8th February and Nurture Nest and G3 – Friday 9th February. All families welcome. More details to follow

The Nursery closes on Friday 9th February (tea club as usual) and reopens on Monday 19th February.

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. If you would like your views represented, please see your Parent Governor **Jane Page**.



From Jane Page: *'I am honoured to be newly elected as Parent Governor and join what is already a fantastic team at Gloucester Nursery School. I have been in primary education for 16 years, 11 of which have been at leadership level. I am now currently Vice Principal at a local through school and have a real passion for Early Years education and the importance of building a solid, well-rounded, fun education for young children. I am looking forward to working with the staff, parents and children and offering my expertise and knowledge in order to contribute to the outstanding practice that is already in place. I see it as a privilege to stand as Parent Governor and bring absolute commitment and enthusiasm to the role. I look forward to meeting you all soon.'* Her details can be obtained from the school 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.



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 2017.

You will need to apply to Northamptonshire County Council for a primary school place for September 2017. **The closing date is 15th January 2018.** Apply online at www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/admissions. For more information call 01604 236599 or e-mail admissions@northamptonshire.ov.uk

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