

HAMBLEDON NURSERY NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2019



Welcome back to a new academic year, and an especially warm welcome to those new families joining us this term. I trust you have all had an enjoyable summer break and that your children are looking forward to having lots of fun upon returning to Hambleton Nursery School.

Please feel rest assured that we will work with you regarding settling your children. Whether in the blue room or red room, you are most welcome to stay with your child where staff will work with you to ensure the best settling procedures.

NEW STARTERS

Practitioners will be working foremost in making your children feel safe and secure, building relations with both yourself and your children. We tailor 'settling in' to each individual family and we work extremely closely with yourselves, so please do let us know how you are feeling and specifically the needs of your child. The settling in period can take a number of weeks, often when children seem happier they may relapse and require further support. Comfort toys or blankets can work well during such transitional periods and we would recommend them if your child is finding it hard to settle.

COLLECTION OF CHILDREN

At times, it is not always possible or convenient for yourselves to collect your children from nursery and often (on a 'one off' situation) children are collected by another adult or parent for play dates and so on. In these circumstances, we ask you to document when and who will be collecting your children. A diary is situated in reception for you to record this information.

Please do be aware that we will not allow a child to leave the nursery with an unauthorised person, anyone under the age of 16 years or anyone who we have not met before. Please email the office a photograph of the adult who will be collecting your child if they are previously unknown to the nursery. Alternatively, you may wish to supply a password which will then be shared with relevant room supervisors before collection times. This word can be used by the unknown person collecting your child so that we know that they are who you say they are.

The arrangements for long standing collections, for example, child carers and nannies are confirmed in the office and do not need to be written in the diary each day, details on authorised persons will be kept on your personal records.

If you wish to make a long standing arrangement to collect your child at an earlier time at the end of the red room afternoon sessions in order to facilitate a school run, please let the office know. At all other times, please make efforts to collect you child at either 2.45pm or at the end of the session at 3pm. It can be disruptive to collect your child during the end of the day story and is difficult for staff to facilitate a number of children leaving at slightly different times, so please try to keep to either a long standing arrangement; a 2.45pm pick up on the odd occasion or 3pm.

DONATION

We were extremely delighted to receive the very kind donation of money from the July leavers of £275. This money is being set aside to make improvements to the outside area. We are planning to add to the painted playground markings this term and we are going to be fund raising in the future towards building a new outside shelter in the Spring term.

Many kind and lavish gifts were received at the end of term and on behalf of all staff may I take this opportunity of thanking you all for both the gifts and the many wonderful cards with words of thanks and support.

STAFFING

It is with great pleasure that we welcome three new members of staff to join the team at Hambledon Nursery. Helen Hurley will be joining the Red room, working Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. We are also very pleased to welcome Louise Gaff and Gina Castle who will be both work all day on Monday and Wednesday's and Louise will be working the Friday morning session additionally. We hope you will join us in welcoming Helen, Louise and Gina to the nursery.

YOUR NEWS AND SUGGESTIONS

Your feedback is extremely important to us, so please do tell us what you have been doing over the summer when you return your summer observation sheets, which were given out prior to the summer holidays. Whether you have been on holiday, experienced special events or day trips, we can talk to your children and relate their experiences into their activities as they return to nursery.

We have a new role play area in the Red Room. A home corner with a garden decked out in sizzling summer style. A reminder of all those sunny days spent splashing about in paddling pools and playing outside.

If you have any photographs or souvenirs of your holiday, we encourage children to bring these in for show and tell or to place on our interest table. Equally if you have any suggestions for the nursery, fund raising ideas or comments about the provision, please do pick up a 'Hambledon Nursery School Suggestion Slip from the box in reception, just next to the visitor book and dairy.

ALL ABOUT ME FORM

In the second week of term will be distributing an 'All about me update' form. Please take time to complete the questions detailed and return to your key person at your earliest convenience. This will give us an opportunity to celebrate any achievements your child has made over the summer, for example, riding a bicycle or learning to swim and we are then able to make any sensitive adjustments to their learning, if for example, you have lost a beloved pet over the holiday period

WEATHER

We hope to see continued warm weather over September and would request that you still supply a named sun hat. Sun cream will need to be applied prior to sessions when appropriate. Please ensure that you supply either wellington boots or croc style shoes for outdoor play. We would also remind you that waterproof clothing is required every session for water play or rainy weather. To avoid mislaying items of clothing, please ensure that you name everything, even shoes with a permanent marker or appropriate name label.

PARENT INFORMATION AND INVOLVEMENT

A new parent page is available in reception on the parent notice boards outside red room and Blue room and is also available to be copied within the Parent Information pack. This page is dedicated to suggestions for talking to your child to encourage them to share their news about their nursery session in order for you to then support their learning at home and encourage talk and language development.

Please be aware that we offer 'Stay and Play' sessions. Please speak to Tracey or myself about when you might like to stay for a hour immediately after dropping off your child one morning. We recommend you allow a few weeks for your child to settle initially but after that please do get a date in the nursery diary. Stay and Play sessions are a wonderful opportunity for you to gain an insight into what your child's interests are at nursery, which children they play with and to gain a bit more of an understanding of what goes on in their session at nursery.

If you wish to visit the nursery to read a story at the end of a session or to share a special talent, for example playing an instrument, please simply talk to your child's key person or to the room supervisors, Kate, Tracey or Kelly.

We will be looking at different types of homes and where we live as a theme in the afternoon session in Red Room this half term, so please bring in a photograph of your home so that we can display these as a focal talking point in support of the learning that will be taking place linked to this topic.

EMPTY CLASSROOM SESSIONS

We are planning to continue the weekly themed 'Empty Classroom' sessions this Autumn term. We will go outside rain or shine to enjoy these wonderful opportunities to play together as a whole nursery happily engaged in den building, campfire cooking and bug hunting, so please provide wellies and waterproofs daily and supply a complete change of clothing in a named bag on your child's peg.

If you feel you may be able to support an outdoor session by sharing a skill, willow weaving, tree surgery, making music from natural instruments or large scale art projects, please let the nursery know. We would welcome any enhanced learning opportunities, contacts or suggestions you may have.

FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

It is important that children recognise the things that make them unique and can talk about some of the similarities and differences in relation to friends, family and traditions. With this in mind your key person would be very interested to know what festivals or notable dates you celebrate.

Whilst we celebrate various religious and cultural festivals from around the world, we respect each individual's choice to participate. Please speak to your key person for further support here.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will be celebrating Harvest during week commencing Monday 30th September. Children will practice some seasonal songs and we will be inviting some older members of our community to receive our harvest produce. All donations of food, preferably dried or tinned would be gratefully received during that week. We will also to visit St Peter's Church in Hambledon to hold our Harvest Service on Friday 4th October at 11.30am. All children and parents are welcome to join us and more details will be made a available closer to the time..

CULTURAL CAPITAL- WHAT IS THAT?

'Cultural Capital' is a term that Ofsted have included in their new Inspection Framework for September 2019. This term simply refers to the essential knowledge and experiences that children should have access to at nursery and school to be well rounded individuals. To quote Ofsted it is 'the best that has been thought and said, helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement'. It is our role as early educators to ensure children experience the awe and wonder of the world in which they live through unique and memorable learning experiences in all seven areas of learning. We have a new display in reception to highlight all the wonderful experiences that contribute to your child's 'Cultural Capital' at the nursery.

SHOW AND TELL

Show and Tell at nursery is a great way to share the many varied experiences that may make up a child's 'Cultural Capital'. We are passionate about your children's communication and vocabulary. Participating in and listening to a 'Show and Tell' session can promote your child's communication and broaden their vocabulary based on their first-hand experiences and how they communicate and interpret them. With this in mind, we would like to encourage children to bring in something to the nursery that they have collected on their travels or from their experiences outside of nursery: a leaflet from a place they have visited such as a castle, farm or museum, a natural object or a photograph. These items will encourage them to extend their vocabulary and use their expressive language or to respond to open ended questions about their experiences. Where possible please discourage bringing toys into nursery as they often prove a distraction and can get misplaced if they do not fit into trays easily. Comfort toys, such as a teddy or blanket do not fall into this category.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 9th September	Return to Nursery after the summer holiday.
Monday 30th September	Harvest Festival Week with Harvest service on Friday 4th October 11.30am
Monday 28th October	Half Term Week
Monday 4th November	Return to nursery after half term
Monday 18th November	Red Room Parent Consultations commence
Wednesday 20th November	Beep Beep Day (Road Safety awareness day)
Monday 2nd December	Blue Room Parent Consultations commence
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Party and Blue Room finishes the Autumn term
Friday 20th December	Last Day of Term & Red Room Nativity, please note: End of term @ 12noon
Monday 6th January	Spring Term Starts

Further details on these and other events will follow nearer the time. The staff and I are all looking forward to a fun and exciting Autumn term. Please do not hesitate to speak to myself or any member of the team should you have any queries or requirements.

Kind regards

Kate Walford

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