

HAMBLEDON NURSERY NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to this very exciting second half of the autumn term at the Hambledon Nursery School. Who can believe that the festive season is just around the corner?

CHRISTMAS 2020

This year will feel a little different in the build up to Christmas, due to the restrictions placed upon us by adhering to government guidelines and risk assessment measures. However, Hambledon Nursery will be marking the wonderful time of year with baubles, bells and whistles, our festive spirit never dampened by external events, such as global pandemics.

We will be getting ready to share the red room nativity songs via a video recording this year and we will be revealing plans for a 'nativity trail' that we hope you will be able to walk through once completed, along the woodland path to St Peter's church. This will involve Christmas crafts from both blue room and red room children. Despite being unable to host a Christmas party and end of year nativity event this year, we will be decorating the nursery, singing Christmas songs a plenty and making it memorable and magical in both rooms.

Please see the link below, for Families Surrey South West magazine, November/December issue.

<http://bit.ly/FamMagNovDec3>

This publication has been supplied in an electronic format at this present time, but do take a look. There are lots of ideas and suggestions that are Christmas related and certain events are being booked quickly.



STAFF CHANGES

We begin the second half of the Autumn term by saying a sad farewell to Karen Lucas, who worked as an early years practitioner in the red room. Karen left at October half term to take up a role as a 'Learning Support Assistant' at Moss Lane school. Thank you for your messages of support and well wishes for Karen. We are very happy to welcome Nicky Watts to our terrific team. Nicky joins us in the red room and is working a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome as she settles into Hambledon Nursery school over the coming weeks.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Please take a moment to read the following extract from the NHS Test and Trace service about when to try to get a coronavirus test. This information has been shared with all schools, nurseries and childcare settings.

'One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, students, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested. Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

▪ *You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:*

- 1. a high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
- 2. a new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- 3. a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal

▪ *Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.*

▪ *If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms*

▪ *Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.*

▪ *If the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and **only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.***

▪ *If a child in a room at nursery tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who may then be advised to self-isolate **does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.***

No one else in the same class, bubble or room at a nursery as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the setting. Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Parents should only book a test for their child, or themselves if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school or nursery which you may find useful: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

It is vital for children and young people's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to nursery, school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.'

I hope you found this information clear, if you have a COVID test for your child please inform the nursery of the result as soon as possible.

Most people/children with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms listed above, although it is thought that children can display the illness in very different ways to adults, or be asymptomatic, they will however often present with a temperature as one of the key indicators.

Please DO NOT send your child into the nursery if they have had any of the symptoms listed overnight. If your child is sent home from the nursery with symptoms, they will need to be tested and a negative result received before they, or their siblings, where applicable can resume nursery. The nursery will not request proof of the result, but will trust that you have followed the advice and guidelines carefully and with due diligence.

CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES

If a child is unwell with other symptoms, such as sore throat, earache, stomach ache, runny nose, skin rashes, then you are advised to check NHS 111 online health condition advice at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> and contact your local pharmacy or GP if you need further help. NHS 111 phone line should only be used for an urgent medical problem where you are unsure what to do. If your child is too ill to attend nursery, you should advise the nursery as per normal and arrange to care your child at home until they are well enough to return.

BLUE ROOM INFORMATION

Blue room will be focusing on a specific area of learning each week in the second half of the Autumn term until Christmas.

Week 1, commencing Monday 2nd November, the focus is on Knowledge and Understanding of the World, looking at Pumpkins.

Week 2, commencing 9th November the focus is Expressive Art and Design, with a 'Giant Art Attack Week'.

Week 3, commencing Monday 16th November, the focus is Communication and Language, with a focus on story telling 'The Gruffalo' and 'Going on a Bear Hunt'. Week 4, commencing Monday 23rd November, the focus is Characteristics of Effective Learning, exploring using senses with cooking activities.

Week 5, commencing Monday 30th November, the focus is Physical Development and 'Let's Get Physical' themed activities.

The last two weeks will be focusing on Christmas.

In addition, Tracey would kindly like to ask that you please supply regular pull tab nappies, unless your child is potty training. Nappy changing tends to be more time consuming with children who are in pull ups, thank you for your understanding.

Tracey would like to thank parents for their cooperation regarding drop off and pick up and reiterates the message that we welcome emails or phone calls if you would like an update on your child's progress at anytime, please do not feel as though you may be disturbing us.

Blue room would also love to hear what your children are getting up to at home too, so please send in photos and a little anecdote via email which can be then added to your child's profiles. Thank you.

WEATHER

There are typically always rumours circulating about our British weather and this winter will be no exception I am sure. It is always mindful to remain aware on the procedures should the nursery have to close at short notice in the event of heavy snowfall or severe storms. The nursery's emergency closure policy states that should we fail to open, then you will receive a telephone call from your key person to inform you accordingly on the morning of the closure and a notice will be placed on the nursery website www.hambledonnurseryschool.co.uk

Although conditions have thus far been quite mild (and now increasingly wet) please be prepared with suitable clothing for your child as they attend nursery. We always go outside every day unless incredibly windy so please supply adequately warm and named waterproofs, boots and a coat and if the weather turns, gloves and a hat are a must. Please support our drive to be outside with a good supply of clothing, especially socks in your child's nursery bag, which should remain at the nursery for the duration of the half term. If your child is in nappies or pull ups, please bring in a supply each week, so that we can ensure your child has sufficient in their individual bag on their peg. Please bring spare clothes and nappies, or comfort toys in a zip lock bag to nursery, so that we can wipe the outside down before use, thank you.



REMEMBRANCE DAY – WEDNESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER 2020

We will be sensitively approaching the commemoration of Armistice Day on Wednesday 11th November. Children attending red room afternoon sessions will be given the opportunity to participate in a remembrance themed activities in the week beginning 9th November. They will be encouraged to recall special times and significant events in their family life or with friends. Poppy crafts will be offered and a child choice of activities, based on remembering their favourite activities at the nursery.

Poppies and other commemorative items are available for a small donation, all donations welcome in the British Legion collection pot. **We will place this outside on a table at collection when the weather allows.**

COMMUNICATION & PARENT CONSULTATIONS

It is taking some getting used to, but we are making the best of a bad situation and trying to encourage open communication where we can at drop off and collection, but really encouraging you to please email or call the office with any questions about your child's session at anytime. We are always happy to step out of the session and speak to you, if you wish to have a catch up with your child's key person. The opportunity for a moment of feedback at drop off and collection are being missed and we fully understand this is difficult. Please do request a parent phone consultation when you receive your child's summative or transition assessment over the next few weeks.

You will receive an email with an electronic copy of the assessment that your child's key person has written and a hard copy will come home also, in the week before parent consultations.

Red room parent phone consultations will take place over two weeks, from Monday 16th November to Friday 27th November. Blue room phone consultations will be available from Monday 30th November for one week up to Friday 4th December. If you have any questions, queries, or simply wish to chat with your child's key person about how your child is doing in general, what they like to play with, friendships and settling, do please email a reply when you receive your child's assessment and we will book a date and time for a phone consultation in the diary at nursery.

PARENT OBSERVATIONS

Investigations into the value of parent observations have proved extremely advantageous to the partnership with practitioners, bringing about what seems a natural involvement in your child's development. Over the next few weeks we will be sending home both a parent evaluation sheet and an observation sheet to complete over the Christmas holiday period. This is in order for the nursery to discover how your family prepares for those special events coming your way, whether it be 'Thanks Giving' or indeed seasonal Christmas preparations, we love to hear about your family traditions. The information you provide us with will be integrated into your child's portfolio giving us a bigger picture of your child's continuing learning journey within a home and family environment. We thank you for your support here. Please return all sheets to your key person at your convenience.

We will also be asking you for your observations regarding your child's use of technology in the home in the red room. This will provide us with valuable insight into how your child uses devices, such as tablets, phones and push button interactive toys. We do not spend a great deal of time engaged in this sort of activity here at the nursery as we are far too busy with mud, paint and play, so your observations will be of real benefit in this area.

PACKED LUNCHES

Thank you for providing delicious, healthy and nutritious children's packed lunches when they stay for an afternoon session in the red room. Many are now arriving in a wipe clean Tupperware container, thank you. It makes it much easier to clean the outside of the boxes on arrival. A reminder, that we have a no nut policy, which includes peanut butter sandwiches. Secondly, we ask that you cut grapes in half if provided as part of your child's packed lunch. In this same respect, may we kindly ask that you cut cherry tomatoes and large blueberries in half too. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING

Finally, this year we will be limited in the type of fundraising activities we will be able to run this year, with the spring fair cancelled last year and I would think this year also. I would therefore like to remind you of a very easy and simple way to support the nursery school.

Easyfundraising is an entirely free service that allows people to shop directly at their favourite online store via the links on the easyfundraising.org.uk website and raise a donation for the nursery once a purchase is made. Donations can be up to 15% of the value of your purchase, depending on the retailer and the item purchased. There are thousands of stores that are already participating with leading high street brands such as Amazon, Expedia, John Lewis and more, making it one of the most effortless fundraising ideas for schools. There's even an app and a browser add-on. Over £31 million has been raised for thousands of community groups, schools, sports clubs, small and large charities across the UK. Hambledon nursery school, Surrey could be one of those that benefits also.

How does it work?

Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for your favourite cause. How? Just start your online shopping first at [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk), then shop as normal. The retailers will then make a small donation to say "thank you".

Here is what you need to do:

Go to easyfundraising.org.uk, sign up and select Hambledon Nursery School, Surrey. Bookmark the website, install the Donation Reminder and/or download the app and you're good to go! Going forward, every single time you make an eligible purchase, we will receive a donation and we are very much hoping that we can raise money towards the building of an outside shelter to further enhance our wonderful outdoor provision. This will be a super addition, a resource we can use to promote being outside as much as possible at the moment especially and in the future, to host events such as leavers' service potentially.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 2nd November Start of second half of the Autumn term

Thursday 12th November Great Big Pudsey Day (Children in Need dress up day) £1 donation welcome in red & blue room

Monday 16th November Red room phone consultation period commences

Monday 23rd November Red room phone consultations continue

Monday 30th November Blue room phone consultations available all week

Friday 11th December Blue room movers up visit the red room

Thursday 17th December Last day of term for blue room children

Friday 18th December Last Day of term for red room children

Kind Regards
Kate Walford