



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to a new term and particularly to those families joining us at the beginning of the summer term. I hope that you all had a pleasant Easter break and have enjoyed the bank holiday weekend. Please feel rest assured that for all children joining the red room or blue room this term, that staff will work closely with you to ensure the best settling in procedures for your individual child over the coming days and weeks.

The summer term is always an especially exciting one, with the children making the most of our wonderful and extensive outside spaces here at Hambleton Nursery School. Over the coming weeks we will be spending more time outside in the warmer summer weather. The children will be watching how our environment changes and they will be encouraged to notice transformation in nature, through growth in plants, trees and watching insects. We will be nurturing the areas in the garden which create natural hiding places and encourage wildlife. Children will be able to hide in long grass and wind along pathways, stimulating all of their senses.

SUMMER WEATHER

We will resume our weekly empty classroom sessions throughout the summer term, spending a whole morning session outside as the weather gradually improves. These enhanced sessions will include den building, campfire cooking and large scale art attacks. Every child will experience these 'forest school' style sessions and have the opportunity to enjoying the change in routine.

May I remind you to supply a named sun hat for your child to wear during outside play. As usual, we will be incorporating lots of water play into the children's outside activities and a pair of waterproof trousers that suit the hotter weather is advisable, especially those that are not fleece lined.

SUNCREAM



In accordance with our nursery policies, we do not apply un-prescribed sun creams. Sun cream must be applied by you prior to your child's sessions. Please seek to use a once a day application sun cream, such as 'Ultrasun' 50 SPF, especially for those children in the red room, who will be staying all day. In accordance with our safeguarding policy and procedures, we do not keep sun cream at the nursery and cannot apply it to the skin of your child.

Please could we politely remind you not to leave sun-cream, lip balms or other creams in your child's bag. This does present a risk to other children should they gain access to them. Please just speak to a staff member at drop off if you wish your child to access a lip balm during their session, as these must be kept safely out of reach until needed.

Parents are very welcome to drop in to the nursery to apply sun cream after drop off, should you need to on the odd occasion that this gets overlooked in the hectic morning rush to get out of the door...it does happen!

FOOTWEAR

Suitable fitted summer shoes are most practical for the summer term and I regret that flip flops, backless sandals and some open-toe shoes are not appropriate. Croc style shoes do prove practical footwear, especially for wet play, however please ensure that the heel strap can be put in place. Children playing outside will be kindly asked to wear their wellington boots or croc style shoes in the summer. Open toe sandals are appropriate for play indoors, but prove unsuitable outside for running, climbing, and wet play as they can catch underneath a child's foot when running and trip a child up, or get caught in twigs and sticks. A reminder to please name all shoes.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Over the coming weeks we will focus on quality outdoor play during our morning and afternoon sessions in both the blue room and red room, using the weather as a key learning opportunity. Such activities will include, learning about the environment, nature and physical movement, comprising of: ball skills, obstacle courses, running and team games and water challenges.

Advance notice that Physical Development sessions will take place once a week in the afternoons during the second half of the summer term in the red room. High emphasis is placed upon your child's ability to dress and undress, this being one of the development matters that the Early Years Foundations Stage Framework sets for children to achieve during their early education. Staff will be on hand to help your children manage this task and this is an especially important experience for those children moving onto school in September.

Those children who attend in the afternoon will be handed a plain cotton tote bag with a named label before the end of this half term. We would ask you to supply alternative clothing for Physical Development activities, for example, shorts, jogging bottoms, soft shoes / plimsolls. We will be encouraging children to change independently for such sessions supporting them in their development of self-care.

All the children will also be enjoying more gardening opportunities and activities will incorporate garden maintenance and vegetable growing over the coming weeks. Camping activities will begin, such as tent building, outdoor cooking and den building, mud slides and bug hunts.

NEW BOOKS

Thank you for supporting the nursery last month, in March with our sponsored reading event, Ready, Steady, Listen, which happened during the week of Word Book day and our bedtime stories event. Your sponsorship money totalled £267 which is going to be used to purchase lots more books, fiction and non-fiction titles and Usborne books are giving the nursery an extra 30% on top of this sum in free books, so a huge thank you to those of you who took part.

For your information, the children will be enjoying book themed weeks which are planned for the first week of term. The books which have been selected are, 'The Hungry Caterpillar' in the blue room and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' in the red room.

FRENCH SESSIONS RESUME

We are pleased to be able to offer short French speaking sessions once again for the pre-school children in the red room. These enhanced provision sessions will take place on a Thursday morning, commencing on Thursday 28th April. We are incredibly fortunate to have Nicky Watts on our team. Nicky, as you will know is a red room early years practitioner, but has lived previously for many years in France and is a fluent French speaker. Nicky will be teaching small group of children in a fun and active way suitable for their age, topics including counting to 5, colour words, animal names and transport. Nicky looks forward to sharing her talent for language this summer term...merci Nicky!



MOVING ON TO SCHOOL

If your child is moving onto school in September, you will have received the outcome of your school application place on Saturday 16th April. I very much hope that you are all happy with the school place that you were allocated, but should you be uncertain about the place being offered to you, please do not hesitate to contact the nursery and I will be very happy to talk you through the next steps in the process.

Could you please email the office on office@hambledonnurseryschool.co.uk at your earliest convenience, detailing the name of the school that you have accepted at this stage. If you are on a waiting list, or going to appeal against any decision on school offers, please again inform the nursery so that we can support you as necessary. A requirement relating to the EYFS encourages strong relationship/partnership with schools, to enable an easy transition. It also gives us the details we require to liaise with schools at this important time, to arrange visits should they be possible later this term and to forward your child's profile to their new teacher.

I will be in touch very soon with further support about school transition and 'readiness for school' and what is understood and meant by this. I will be sharing information about how the nursery, in close partnership with you, can help prepare your child for making the next step and for transitioning to school in September 2022. To this end, I am participating in a webinar in conjunction with St Catherine's Prep school in Bramley. All nursery school leavers shall have a flyer advertising this event in their trays. 'Off to a great start-preparing your child for school' will take place on Thursday 12th May, 11-11.30am, please join us if you can, details of how to book can be found on the reverse of the flyer. Topics covered will include, how to help your child settle at school, ready to make friends and learn. How you can prepare your child and yourself for this important next step.

CAR PARKING

A polite reminder to please try to free up those precious parking spaces as quickly as possible when dropping off or collecting your children during the busier summer term. I know that parking is highly problematic to say the least at the nursery during busy drop off and collection times. Please do not ever feel worried about 'being late' we are very flexible and there is a 'window' for drop off times, 9am-9.15am for red room and 9.15am-9.30am for blue room. If you arrive outside of those timings, this is not a problem at all, simply call to the front of the building at the main reception door and ring for a staff member to let your child in. Please note those mornings when we are setting up outside for an empty classroom session and please avoid coming onto the playground earlier than 9am on those occasions, thank you.

Finally, it has been noted that on occasion the black metal side gate is left open at collection times. Please take care to close this after you pass through, this prevents children running ahead in front of their caregivers and keeps everyone safe.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Individual photographs will take place on Tuesday 17th May. The individual photographs will be taken by Amy Blackwood, a local photographer and mum of three, who has worked with the nursery on many occasions and the children all warm to her and her 'squeaky camera frog' friend very quickly we have found. Amy will be at the nursery from 9am. More details about the precise arrangement for this morning will follow in plenty of time before the event.

Children who do not attend nursery on this day will be given the opportunity of having their photograph taken on that day and a whole nursery photograph will be scheduled in at the end of the morning, exact timings will follow later in the half term.

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE PICNIC/OPEN AFTERNOON-FRIDAY 27TH MAY

Hambledon Nursery School warmly welcomes you to join us for an open afternoon on Friday 27th May to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service during her astonishing reign. We will be joining together for a picnic in the grounds, inviting you and your family to join us in the big garden, bringing your own picnic rugs and food to enjoy with your children. This will start as soon as the Friday morning session ends, so normal finishing times for the blue room at 12.15pm and 12.30pm for the red room. We will all then all gather outside to enjoy our picnic lunches and tea and scones will be served from the kitchen.

A variety of activities are planned including we very much hope, donkey rides, face painting, music from Jo Kirkland and even adult May pole dancing (if we can find the village May Pole by then and a caller!). We anticipate a fun filled afternoon between 12.30pm and 3pm to mark this momentous occasion, so please join us if you can.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19th April	Start of the summer term
12th May	School Transition webinar 11am
17h May	Nursery photography morning
27th May	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Picnic/Open afternoon 12.30-3pm
30th May-3rd	June Half term
6th June	Return for the start of the second half of summer term
21st July	Leavers Service
Friday 22nd July	Last day of term/Leavers Teddy Bear Picnic

Further information about upcoming summer term events, such as plans for leavers service, parents consultations in the second half of the term and individual and/or group photographs will be made available through email and letters closer to the time.

Should you require any further information on any of the points raised in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the nursery.

Kindest regards

Kate Walford

