Hambledon Nursery Bulletin – November 2026

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the autumn term! We have lots to look forward to as we approach the festive season, alongside opportunities to celebrate the children's learning and support their wellbeing.

Christmas Celebrations

Christmas/Winter Trail – Wednesday 9th December, from 4pm

Join us for an exciting festive family event, with friends and family welcome. Children can purchase a £2 trail card and visit five interactive activity stations around the nursery grounds. Collect all five stamps to visit Father Christmas and receive a small prize. Festive refreshments, including hot chocolate, mince pies and homemade biscuits, will be available to purchase separately.

Christmas Party – Thursday 17th December, 10am

Our Christmas party will feature Bonnie the Bubble Lady, with a magical bubble show, party food and a special visit from Father Christmas! Children attending on Thursdays will arrive at their usual time, while other children are invited to arrive at 10am. Blue Room children will finish at 12.15pm, and Red Room morning children at 12.30pm. Thursday 17th December is the last day of term for Blue Room children. Thursday afternoon sessions will run as normal.

Christmas Nativity – Friday 18th December, 12 noon

Red Room children will be performing a traditional Christmas Nativity. Children who normally attend on Fridays should arrive as usual, while other Red Room children should arrive at 11.30am. The term will finish for all Red Room children at 12.30pm, with no afternoon session. Please contact us if you have any questions about your child's participation or the rehearsals. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

Christmas Cards

This year, the children will be creating their own wonderfully messy, individual Christmas cards to bring home! Our Christmas post box will be available in reception from Monday 30th November for children who would like to send cards to friends and staff.

👨‍👩‍👧 Parent Consultations

Parent consultations with your child's key person will take place over November:
- Red Room: From Monday 9th November, over two weeks.
- Blue Room: From Monday 23rd November, over one week.

Appointments will last 15 minutes and provide an opportunity to discuss your child's achievements, development and settling-in progress, as well as ask any questions. Written assessments will be shared beforehand, so you have time to read them. If your appointment is inconvenient, please speak to your key person to arrange an alternative or a telephone consultation. Linda will share appointment reminder emails in the first week back after half term.

🍱 Packed Lunches

Thank you for providing healthy packed lunches for Red Room children attending afternoon sessions. Please remember that we operate a **strict no-nuts policy**, including peanut butter, hazelnut chocolate spreads and pesto containing pine nuts.

For safety, please cut grapes, cherry tomatoes and large blueberries in half before packing them. Your child's key person or Gina Castle can direct you to our helpful packed-lunch suggestions printed in reception.

👕 Spare Clothes and Lost Property

As the weather gets colder, please ensure all coats, hats, gloves, boots and waterproofs are clearly labelled. Please also check your child's bag regularly for spare clothes and nappies, where needed, and return reusable wet-clothes bags to nursery after use so we can continue to avoid using plastic bags.

Unlabelled items will be placed on the hooks by the front entrance, on the reception radiator cover. Please do check for any missing belongings.

❄️ Colder Weather and Possible Closures

Please provide warm, weather-appropriate clothing that is also suitable for outdoor activities and messy play.

In the event of severe weather, such as heavy snowfall or storms, the nursery may need to close at short notice. If we cannot open, your key person will telephone you on the morning of the closure, and a notice will be posted on our website: www.hambledonnurseryschool.co.uk.

Emotional Wellbeing Support (ELSA)

Katie Lindley, one of our Red Room practitioners, is a qualified Early Years Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA). She works alongside key practitioners to support children's emotional regulation and help families with challenges such as sleep routines, toilet training, anxiety, adjusting to a new sibling, bereavement and parental stress.
If you would like advice or a drop-in session with Katie, referral forms are available in reception or on request.

Safer Sleep

As we approach the festive season, we would like to remind families of the importance of safer sleep for babies under 12 months, particularly during visits, overnight stays and changes to usual routines.

Key guidance includes:
• Always place babies on their backs to sleep.
• Use a clear, firm, flat sleep surface, free from pillows, bumpers and other soft items.
• Keep the room at a comfortable temperature of 16–20°C and share a room with your baby for the first six months.
• Never co-sleep on a sofa or chair, or when you have consumed alcohol, taken drugs or are extremely tired.

The Lullaby Trust's safer-sleep information leaflet accompanies this newsletter. If you would like further advice, please speak to Katie as ELSA, Kate our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or Poppy, our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL).

Car Parking and Safety

Please use the nursery car park wherever possible and avoid using the Merry Harriers car park, particularly at busy drop-off times. Please do not park on the verge outside the nursery entrance for quick collections, as this damages the ground and causes difficulties for the local community.

For everyone's safety, please always hold your child's hand in the car park and do not allow children to run freely while vehicles are moving.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to a happy, festive and exciting end to the term with all our children and families!

2026 Dates for your Diary

Monday 2nd November	Return from half term
Monday 9th November	Red room parent consultation period commences (2 weeks)
Monday 23rd November	Blue room parent consultations commence (1 Week)
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas/Winter trail 4pm
Thursday 17th December	Last day of term for blue room/Christmas Party starting at 10am
Friday 18th December	Last Day of term for red room children/ Christmas Nativity 12noon.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions or wish to raise any matters by calling the nursery on (01428) 684892 or by emailing office@hambledonnurseryschool.co.uk

Kind regards
Kate Walford