Tel: 0118 9812927 or 07960 030240

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www.saplingspreschool.co.uk

The Saplings Pre-School

Saturday, 07 November 2026

November/December 2026 Newsletter

Welcome



We would like to welcome Diane back to The Saplings Pre-school. She is a member of staff who has an abundance of experience and will be a great asset to the team. Diane will be working within the Saplings room.

If your child is in Saplings please drop them off at the Saplings door from now on. Thank you for bearing with us until we had the morning staffing in place.

We would also like to welcome Raya who has joined us in Acorns.

Organisation



Carol is **The Manager of The Saplings Pre-School with overall responsibility, Chloe** is **The Assistant Manager**, responsible for the setting in Carol's absence, **Vicky** is the **Supervisor** supporting the 'manager' running the Seedlings and Acorns room.

Senior staff are here to help you and for information the following members of staff should be approached for the following: Designated Lead Safeguard: Carol, Deputy Safeguard: Chloe, Vicky **Special Educational Needs:** Zoe, **Health and Safety:** Carol and **Inclusion (Equality and Diversity), Bereavement:** Carol.

Education



Starting School in September 2027: If your child will be 4 years old between 1st September 2026 and 31 August 2027, that is, born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, they will be entitled to start school in September 2027. You can apply online for a place from Sunday 1st November until the deadline of Friday 15th January 2027.

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions

Online notifications of your allocated place is 16th April 2027, waiting list established 30th April.

Open days for schools are displayed within Saplings.

Lunches



Please clearly label your child's lunch bag and drinks bottle on the **outside**. It is essential to label the lunch bags especially for children with allergies. Please could you ensure that grapes, tomatoes, olives and cocktail sausages are **chopped lengthways** as, due to their shape, these are major choking hazards for children of this age. Please **cut off unwanted crusts** too. It is difficult for staff members to leave children unattended at tables during the lunch period as this puts other children at risk.

As an early years' setting we have to promote healthy eating and therefore have the policies of no chocolate and no sweets and we try to encourage parents to limit the number of sugary items provided for children. It is very difficult to encourage some of the children to eat anything else if they see these items in their lunch box.

Some children have an excessive amount of food in their lunch boxes and on occasions lunch can take well over an hour. Please limit their choice to no more than 5 items.

Please support us to deliver this requirement.

Water Bottles



We have noticed that an increasing number of children are bringing juice in their drink bottle. It is an Ofsted requirement that children have access to water all day so please ensure that you fill these with water. It is ok to provide a further drink for lunch time if you wish to do so.

Saplings

Just a little reminder that we require indoor and outdoor shoes in Saplings especially as the weather is changing. We have a carpet which we ned to keep as clean as practically possible. Thank you.

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Dates for Diary



Autumn Term 2026 last day Friday 18th December 2026
First Day of Spring Term Monday 4th January 2027

Remembrance Sunday Sunday 8th November
Diwali Sunday 8th November
Children in Need Friday 13th November (come to school in pyjamas please)
Photographer Wednesday 25th November all welcome
St Andrew's Day Monday 30th November
Christmas Post Box last collection in pre-school Wednesday 16th December.
Saplings Christmas Lunch Thursday 17th December (no lunch boxes)

A calendar of opening times can be found on our web site www.saplingspreschool.co.uk under 'Our Week'.

Health and Safety



Side Fence As you will have noticed we experienced some damage to the side fence during the storms. This has been reported but at the moment restricts the use of some of our outdoor area. We will be making full use of the space on the two ramps to the entrance doors. Please do not leave any buggies or bikes/scooters on these.

Coats



Please provide your child with a coat every day preferably one that you don't mind getting messy as we will be using the ramp areas for messy craft which they now need to have a coat, to keep warm, for.

Book Bags



Your baby/child has been issued with a book bag and craft scrap book. Please ensure that you bring this into the classroom every day. Thank you.

Planning



Planning has now moved onto 'Celebrations' of which there are many coming up in the next two months. We will talk about Diwali, the celebration of light and create some typical pieces of craft. We will touch on Remembrance Day and then dress up in pyjamas for Children in Need. St Andrew's Day is at the end of the month and then we will be creating lots of things for Christmas. Please encourage your child to join us wearing their Christmas tops and jumpers throughout December.

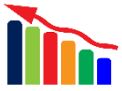
Seedlings are currently focusing on the colour yellow.

Entry into Seedlings



Could we please remind parents in Seedlings to ensure children leave their coats in the entrance area and please hand their drink over to a member of staff or encourage your child to place it on their drink' mat.

child Progress



If you haven't already done so, could you please ensure that you return your baby/child's profile by the end of the week. I hope you have enjoyed looking through them and have signed, added your comments and noted their new achievements. Please do check the address, contact details and special requirements have not changed in any way.

Pre-School Library



Your child will come home with a couple of books each week. Please feel free to change them from the bookcase in the main entrance area.

With thanks, Carol and The Saplings' Pre-School team

The Saplings Pre-School,
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