



The Saplings Pre-School

Thursday, 03 October 2024

Saplings/2024-2025/51

October 2024 Newsletter

Update



We are very pleased to let you know that all of the children have settled back into pre-school really well. The children seem to be happy, willing to learn, play cooperatively and are thriving within the environment. Many have made lovely friendship groups too. Our planning has focused on welcoming children back, talking about their summer and looking at what makes them unique. We have created a display board 'All about me'.

In Acorns our youngest children/babies are settled too. This week they have been participating in some Autumn craft.

Education



Starting School in September 2025: If your child will be 4 years old between 1st September 2024 and 31 August 2025, that is, born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, they will be entitled to start school in September 2025. You can apply online for a place from Friday 1st November until the deadline of Wednesday 15th January 2025.

Your child will be given a card to assist with their application.

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions

Online notifications of your allocated place is 16th April 2025, waiting list established 30th April.

Open days for schools are displayed next to our entrance keypad in the main entrance area.

Organisation



Carol is **The Manager of The Saplings Pre-School with overall responsibility**, **Chloe** is responsible in Carol's absence. **Vicky** is the pre-school **Supervisor**, **Clare** is the **'Seedlings Leader'**

responsible for our two year olds and **Louise** is the **'Acorns Leader'** responsible for our under twos.

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, **Special Educational Needs:** Zoe, **Health and Safety:** Carol and **Inclusion (Equality and Diversity), Bereavement:** Carol.

Lunches



Please clearly label your child's lunch bag and drinks bottle on the outside. 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.

Please support us to deliver this requirement.

Hampshire Healthy Families A free school readiness session is being held at Bishopswood. They are offering 2 sessions, one in November or one in February. It is open to any parent who has a child starting school next academic year, even if they are not intending to come to Bishopswood. It is run by a lady from Bernardo's in connection with NHS to help support parents. Please refer to the poster in the entrance area.



Pre-School Library

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



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Dates for Diary



Half Term 28th October – 1st November
Children in Need Friday 15th November
Photographer Tuesday 10th December
Autumn Term 2024 last day Friday 20th

December 2024

Christmas Post Box last collection in pre-school
Wednesday 13th December.

Spring Term first day of Spring Term is Monday 6th
January 2025

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

Health and Safety



Hazards of Autumn As you will have noticed we are already experiencing the hazards of Autumn. Berries and leaves are covering the ground and we will do our best to clear these as often as possible. The trees are variations of Sorbus which although produce red berries, are harmless as has been confirmed by Hampshire County Council. In addition to these we have an Arbutus which is equally safe.

As a matter of good practice, we talk to the children and discourage them from playing with red berries.

Welcome



We have a new member of staff, Cassie, who has joined The Saplings Pre-School, currently working with our youngest children/babies in Acorns.

Planning



Planning has now moved onto 'Autumn' and we have created a 'Season' window within Saplings, to reflect this. Please encourage your child to collect items for Autumn and bring them into pre-school.

Acorns will be displaying their craft on their walls.

Slippers/Indoor shoes



Now that the weather is beginning to turn could I please remind those of you with children/babies in Acorns that they will require slippers/indoor shoes as well as outdoor shoes/wellies.

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