



The Saplings Pre-School

Wednesday, 01 October 2025

Saplings/2025-2026/51

October 2025 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 their new environments. 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 and Seedlings our youngest children/babies are settled too.

This week we have all been participating in some Autumn craft.

Education



Starting School in September 2026: If your child will be 4 years old between 1st September 2025 and 31 August 2026, that is, born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, they will be entitled to start school in September 2026. You can apply online for a place from Saturday 1st November until the deadline of Thursday 15th January 2026.

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 2026, waiting list established 30th April.
Open days for schools are displayed within Saplings.

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'. **Louise** is the room leader for Seedlings and Acorns.

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.

Wellington Boots



We have a large number of wellington boots in our main entrance area. Can all parents please check that your child's boots are labelled and placed under your child's peg by the start of the day on Friday 10th October? After this many pairs will be removed. Thank you.

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.



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Dates for Diary



Half Term 27th October – 31st Oct 2025

Inset Day Monday 3rd November 2025

Autumn Term 2025 last day Friday 19th December 2025

First Day of Spring Term Monday 5th January 2026

Diwali Monday 20th October

Remembrance Sunday Sunday 9th November

Children in Need Friday 14th November (dress up in spots)

Two and Beyond Wednesday 26th November

Photographer Wednesday 3rd December

Autumn Term 2025 last day Friday 19th December

Christmas Post Box last collection in pre-school Wednesday 17th December.

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.

Planning



Planning has now moved onto 'Autumn' and we will talk about leaves falling off the trees.

Please go on some autumn walks and encourage your child to collect items such as fir cones, pinecones, conkers and acorns as well as some different coloured leaves. We would love to see what they have found.

Two and Beyond

Believe in children
Barnardo's

We have a speaker coming into pre-school focussing on issues and practices for children two and beyond. This has been booked at a parent's request and is primarily intended for our Seedlings' and Acorns' parents. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 26th November starting at 9am and will be held in our sensory room within the large classroom. Please email to confirm whether you are interested in attending.

Suzanne, the speaker visited Saplings' talking to the children about Healthy Heroes. The children enjoyed the interactive session and loved using the giant toothbrushes on the dental mouth models.

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.

Covid



We have had two confirmed cases of Covid and consequently are short staffed, at the moment, whilst staff remain off work.

Please bear with us whilst we do our best to provide all age groups with a childcare service.

If your baby/child is feeling unwell, please keep them off as we will be unable to remain open if anymore staff contract anything else. Do not bring them in if they require Calpol before attending. Your cooperation with this would be appreciated.

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