



January 2026 Newsletter

Welcome



I trust you have all had a wonderful Christmas and welcome you all back to the start of the Spring Term.

We welcome the following children this term: Isabella J, Ivor and Max.

Health and Safety



Food Reminder: Please ensure your child does not bring nuts, chocolate or sweets in any form to pre-school. Please ensure that sausages, tomatoes, grapes and olives are chopped lengthways in half as these items are major choking hazards. Please ensure that all new lunch boxes and drink bottles are labelled. Thank you.

Organisation



Carol is **The Manager of The Saplings Pre-School with overall responsibility**, Chloe is **The Assistant Manager and Vicky**

Supervisor. Louise is the room leader for Acorns and Seedlings.

Zoe is our **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) practitioner SENCo.**

General



Gloves and Hats: As it is now winter please ensure that your child has gloves and a hat when appropriate. Please put gloves in their coat pockets or down sleeves so that they can find them.

Please ensure your child has shoes they can manage themselves for inside. Wellington boots should be provided for outdoor use and cannot be worn inside on wet days as they create a slipping hazard. If your child is in the Saplings' room please provide indoor shoes or rubber/plastic soled slippers.

Adverse Weather: In the event of severe weather please check our website and Facebook for updates of opening hours.

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. Please remember that the deadline for applications is Thursday 15th January 2026.

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions

Online notifications of your allocated place is 16th April 2026, waiting list established 30th April 2026.

Dates for Diary



Spring Term first day of Spring Term is Monday 5th January 2026

Half Term Monday 16th–Friday 20th February

End of Term Friday 27th March

Summer Term Monday 13th April 2026

Monday 4th May – May Day Bank Holiday

Summer Half Term 25th May – 29th May inclusive

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

Planning This half term we will look at:



New Year

Space

Winter

Chinese New Year – Tues 17th February- 3rd March (Year of the Horse)

Valentine's Day – Saturday 14th February

St David's Day – Sunday 1st March

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March



30 Hour Funding If your child is over 9 months before 1st April 2026 and you are eligible for 30 hours, please log in to the HMRC website, make a claim and forward your 30 hour code to me before 31st March 2026. No late validations are accepted by Services for Young Children.



Happy New Year: I trust you have all had a wonderful and safe Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year for 2026. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who bought Christmas gifts for me and my staff.
 Carol and The Saplings Pre-School's Team