



October 2022 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.

In Seedlings and Acorns our youngest children and babies are settled too. They have been creating items for their display board 'Under the Sea'.

Education



Starting School in September 2024: If your child will be 4 years old between 1st September 2023 and 31 August 2024, that is, born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, they will be entitled to start school in September 2024. You can apply online for a place from Wednesday 1st November until the deadline of Monday 15th January 2024.

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 2024, waiting list established 30th April.

Open days for schools:

Burnham Copse Primary School:

Tue 3 Oct 9.30am, Wed 18 Oct 9.30am, Thur 16 Nov 9.30am

Bishopswood Infant School:

Mon 9 Oct 9.15am, Wed 11 Oct 9.15am, Tue 17 Oct 1.30pm,
Thurs 2 Nov 1.30pm

Tadley Community Primary School:

Tours start from Wednesday 27th September

Ashford Hill Primary School

Mon 9 Oct 1.45pm, Wed 8 Nov 9.30am, Mon 27 Nov 9.30am

Silchester C of E Primary School

Wed 11 Oct 9am, Thurs 19 Oct 2pm, Wed 1 Nov 9am

Organisation



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

Staff have reported cases of **Pesto**. This contains pine nuts so unfortunately, we can't have it at pre-school. Please check your child's lunch carefully before bringing it to pre-school especially as we have a child in attendance with severe allergies and with an epi-pen who we have to be mindful of.

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.



Wednesday, 27 September 2023

Dates for Diary



Harvest Festival BCPS Thursday 19th October

Half Term 23rd October – 27th October

Children in Need Friday 17th November

Photographer Wednesday 6th December Autumn

Term 2023 last day Friday 15th December 2023

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

Spring Term first day of Spring Term is Tuesday 2nd January 2024

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.

Harvest Festival



We have been invited by the school to attend their Harvest Festival assembly. It would be nice if we could contribute to their display. It is not essential, but if you could possibly spare a food item during the week commencing 16th October that would be amazing. (Non-perishable, tinned items, please.)

Planning



The children in Seedlings and Acorns have been creating items for their display board 'Under the Sea'. Please take a look when you drop off or collect your child.

Planning has now moved onto 'Autumn' and we will be changing our 'Season' display board in Saplings, to reflect this. Please encourage your child to collect items for Autumn and bring them into pre-school.

Welcome



We have a new member of staff, Rachel, who has rejoined The Saplings Pre-School following a move back to the local area. Rachel will primarily be working within Saplings with our older children.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Dominic to our Acorns area. He will be joining us shortly.

Curiosity Basket



The Saplings' children are using their knowledge and understanding of the world to make models using resources from our curiosity basket.

They have worked together to make a car for our role play area which has been created as a garage. The children have enjoyed using a variety of tools within the garage and around the classroom.

Slippers/Indoor shoes



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

Collection of Children

The statutory guidance has been amended such that there is no legal age limit to collect children from nursery/early years, however, we have set a sensible limit of 15 with written parental permission and proof of ID. It is important to note that once the child has left the setting they are the legal responsibility of the parent.

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.

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

