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The Saplings Pre-School

Thursday, 01 October 2026

October 2026 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 younger children and babies have settled in well and are enjoying a busy room in Seedlings and Acorns. Planning has focused on 'All about me' looking at our senses and naming body parts through craft activities and songs. Seedlings have also focused on the colour 'red'.

We are now looking at signs of Autumn, collecting conkers, leaves and acorns and pinecones. In Saplings we will be looking at the books for Percy the Park Keeper and then we will all be looking at harvest time.

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.

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.

Saplings

Just a little reminder that children in Saplings require indoor shoes for the carpet.

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.

Please support us to deliver this requirement.

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Dates for Diary



Half Term 26th October – 30th Oct 2026
Autumn Term 2025 last day Friday 18th December 2026
First Day of Spring Term Monday 4th January 2027

Bonfire Night Thursday 5th November
Remembrance Sunday Sunday 8th November
Diwali Sunday 8th November
Children in Need Friday 13th November (dress up in spots please)
Photographer Wednesday 25th November
Christmas Post Box last collection in pre-school Wednesday 16th 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.

Seedlings are also focusing on the colours red and blue.

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.

Invoices



Could I please remind parents to ensure invoices are paid within the month they are issued. Many thanks.

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,
c/o Burnham Copse Primary School,
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