



# Newsletter

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October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a lovely break for the forthcoming Half Term (from Monday, 23 October 2023 returning to Nursery on Monday, 30 October 2023).

## Exciting News! Nativity Carols and End of Term Christmas Party- Friday, 15 December 2023



On Friday, 15 December 2023, we will be holding a Children's Mini Christmas Carol Service (9.30am-10am) in St Mary's Church with Reverend Sally Goodson, who has very kindly offered to host it for us. Jenny Goulding will also assist; many of you may remember Jenny from our previous Xmas Carol Services. Sally will be bringing in Nativity puppets to tell this special story. Staff will sing three songs with the children which will be rehearsed over the coming weeks. Jenny will accompany the songs using her famous guitar!

Children will need to arrive at the usual time (9.15am) and place (Nursery Church Hall) so that they can be signed in on the Register. Staff will lead the children into the Church for the Service. Parents/Carers will be able to enter the Church (Front Main Entrance from Luton Road) as soon as they have dropped their child off at Nursery. **If your child wishes to come and sit with you, please do not worry it is perfectly natural as it is a very informal service.**

The children will be led back into the Church Hall by staff for the Party after the Service. A buffet lunch will be provided by Nursery for the children. During the session a Special Visitor will be coming to visit .....Santa! The morning will finish at 12.15pm as usual. **NB: To manage numbers, parents/carers will be unable to attend the Xmas Party with their child/children.**

Please let Deborah know if you would like your child to attend. For those children who do not normally attend on a Friday, the standard session fee of £27 will be chargeable.

Places will be offered on a first come, first serve basis. If this is your child's normal session, then you will be guaranteed a place but please do let Deborah know if you will not be attending, so that our numbers can be managed appropriately. (All Nursery children will be given an Xmas gift.)

Looking forward to seeing as many of the children as possible.

## Website

Please link to our website (shown below) to pick up information in respect of our curriculum planning:-

<https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/the-curriculum>

We have a range of information available across different sections of the Website such as term dates, other planning documentation and links to other settings. We have also downloaded an audio copy of our Nursery Story, 'The Six Special Friends' for you to share with your children if you wish! In addition, the animation for the story has now been completed and is available to play in conjunction with the narrator.

Regular updates/forthcoming events will be available on the 'News' page of the website as well as via the 'Family' app where possible. We would be grateful if you could take a moment to view this.

## Personal belongings

Please could all parents/carers make sure that children's belongings are labelled, particularly clothing, footwear and drinks bottles so that they are not mixed up with others.

## Forest School

The Nursery is extremely fortunate to have access to such a variety of different outdoor learning opportunities with the beautiful woodland and common land right on its doorstep.

We are pleased to report that Deborah Campbell will be continuing to run Forest School sessions throughout the year. The sessions currently run on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Observations have confirmed that this is a wonderful way to encourage even very young children to use their imagination and communicate with one another more effectively. We've had great conversations about our 'Six Special Friends', hunting for leaves and mini bugs, using natural materials to make a range of artwork as well as building dens and practicing our climbing and balancing skills on low lying tree trunks. We also have a fire pit and occasionally carry out simple cooking activities with the children (weather permitting). If your child is attending Forest School, please ensure that they have wellington boots or walking boots – the woods can be very damp and rather muddy!

Forest School was first introduced in the 1950s' in Scandinavia with people who had close cultural connections with the woodlands. Forest School is an outdoor education delivery model in which children (or adults) visit natural spaces to learn personal, social and technical skills. It has been defined as an inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment. Forest School is both a pedagogy and a physical entity, with the use often being interchanged.

## The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2021)

**Please see link below to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2021):-**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

Changes were made in 2021 to reduce the amount of paperwork that practitioners have been expected to complete in previous years and thus allowing more time to be spent with children in their care. Targeted interventions will continue where there may be concerns for a child not meeting the expected age and stage of development.

## Online Learning Journal 'Famly'

You will have access to your child's online Learning Journal which will be maintained by the allocated key worker. This has been introduced to strengthen communication links between our families/carers. 'Famly' is an online learning journal app which has been designed to show observations and photographs of your child to monitor their learning and development more efficiently.

'Famly' has been in operation at Nursery since September 2021. You will be provided with a link to set up a password to access your child's information. At the end of your time at our setting, you will be encouraged to present this online journal to your allocated primary school. This will form a picture of your child's preferences/needs during their time with us and hence aid the transition into the new setting.

We may need to make a few adaptations to the way the online journal is set up. Since introducing 'Famly', we are now able to upload our weekly planning which gives you detailed information with respect to the morning session. We will also be uploading the appropriate reports (ie Two Year Progress Checks as well as Transition Records). We will continue to have a shortened version of the hardcopy learning journal to that previously in place. This will be presented to you as a keepsake when you leave our Nursery and will include a range of artwork/captured moments and reports as well as any half term activity photos which may have been brought into Nursery.

## Progress Meetings with Parents/Carers

We appreciate that because of working patterns many of you may prefer to have progress updates via the 'Famly App'. However, if you wish to come into Nursery to go through your child's progress with the appropriate key worker, please let us know. This will usually apply after a child's first five sessions with us as well as the two-year progress report and end of year transition/leavers report. Nevertheless, there will also be many other opportunities for you to speak to your child's key worker should the need arise.

## Half Term Homework

Please take a moment to gather some news or something that your child may have achieved over half term. It is always good to hear what the children have been up to and in many cases helps us with our planning. You can upload your child's news/achievements onto the 'Famly' app or alternatively, please use the attached sheet.

## Voluntary Snack & Toy Contribution

We would like to thank parents who made donations towards the snacks as well as nursery resources during the Summer Term 2023. This really is very much appreciated.

This term (September-December 2023), we would be grateful if a further Snack and Toy Contribution could go towards the purchase of additional resources. A donation form is attached for parents who wish to contribute £30 for this term.

Many thanks in advance.

## Makaton – Language Programme

The nursery staff continue to show the children basic Makaton signs throughout the sessions eg at snack and singing sessions. Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people communicate. We use basic Makaton signs as part of our inclusive practice and wanted to make you are aware of this as the children may use the signs they have learnt in nursery at home.

## Speech and Language Support Advice

Please follow this link to latest information regarding pre-school age children:

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/service-details-/service/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy-20/>

## Ofsted Registration

Nursery is registered to take children from eighteen months old. Please e-mail Deborah if you wish to place younger siblings on our waiting list.

## Schedule of Fees

Please note that our present Schedule of Fees is available under Policies and Procedures - Section 09.01c via the following link:

[https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/files/ugd/2c226b\\_dba2b97f37f049c8b79df67b6ee758ab.pdf](https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/files/ugd/2c226b_dba2b97f37f049c8b79df67b6ee758ab.pdf)

## Opening Hours

Please copy and paste the link below to our opening hours:

[https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/files/ugd/2c226b\\_d2dedb560cd648c695507d3d77a6bd5b.pdf](https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/files/ugd/2c226b_d2dedb560cd648c695507d3d77a6bd5b.pdf)

## WellComm Toolkit

Staff members have attended a workshop in respect of the WellComm Toolkit which is a speech and language aid for initial screening and intervention in the early years. Recognising its value, Deborah has taken the decision to purchase the kit (costing £384).

## Staff Training

All staff continue to update their safeguarding and paediatric first aid training when appropriate. We also continue to carry out other forms of professional early years training.

Rebecca Shipley is in the process of completing Level 3 special educational needs training. Leoan Smith is also in the process of completing her Level 2 early years childcare training too.

All staff will be updating their paediatric first aid training in April 2024.

## 30 hours' free childcare

Please check your eligibility for the 30 hrs provision and let Deborah know ASAP if you qualify. You can find all the information and useful link on our website.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/childcare-and-advice-for-parents/free-early-education-and-childcare/childcare-and-free-early-education.aspx>

## Fire Drills

We will continue to undertake Fire Drills on a termly basis with the children (both at St Mary's Church Hall and the Scout Hall). We will notify you when this is to be carried out with the children. In addition, we will discuss this with the children the previous week so

that they have an idea what to expect. It takes little time to do but ensures we are prepared in case of a real fire!

## **Policies & Procedures**

Our policies and procedures are available via the following link:

<https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/policies---procedures>

## **Complaints procedure**

Your child's key worker should be your first point of contact regarding any concerns you may have. However, Deborah will be available to speak to should you wish.

## **Inset Days**

Nursery has a total of three inset days scheduled throughout the year. Please note that we have tried to keep these to a minimum but are obliged under government regulations to ensure staff have sufficient time to participate in planning meetings and thus comply with the expectations of The Revised Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (DfE, 2021).

Term dates for 2023/2024 are available via the link below:

[https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/files/ugd/2c226b\\_bfefc49625f74c74b0743ece35a42d73.pdf](https://www.kinsbournecommonnursery.com/files/ugd/2c226b_bfefc49625f74c74b0743ece35a42d73.pdf)

## **POLITE NOTICE**

### **Arrival at Nursery**

To avoid congestion, please could all parents/carers queue outside the Nursery Gate (St Mary's Church Hall) and outside the side entrance of the Scout Hall.

### **Child Collection**

If your child is to be picked up by someone else, please inform us and where possible sign the 'Child Collection Book' to say that this is going to be the case. We also ask that you provide the relevant password to the person who will be collecting in your absence (put on your Registration Form before starting at our setting). Please remember to do this as we will not release a child without this information but will nonetheless make every effort to contact you to clarify the situation. The safety of our children will always be considered by the setting. Once we are familiar with those collecting your child on a regular basis, there will be no need to ask for this information. However, please bear in mind that some staff will not always know the person collecting the child when other staff may do and your co-operation to provide the appropriate password would be appreciated when this is the case.

### **Toileting**

Please ensure that when children are dropped off at nursery, they have been appropriately toileted ie a visit to the toilet if toilet trained or a clean, dry nappy if still in nappies. This will allow the staff to concentrate on the care of children who may need adult support at this time, instead of staff immediately having to change children who have been left with soiled nappies or needing the toilet.

For all children in nappies, please ensure you provide enough for a morning/full day session with baby wipes and nappy bags. NB: Pull ups should only be worn for children who are in the process of potty training as they are not as absorbent as nappies.

## Potty/Toilet Training

Please note that from experience many families have found it far easier to start potty/toilet training their children during times when there is a longer period at home such as through a half term or through other holidays when schools and nurseries are closed. Travelling to different places when children have only just started potty/toilet training will inevitably cause confusion resulting in the inevitable toilet accident which may cause them to feel unnecessarily anxious. If you are thinking of potty/toilet training your child, please liaise with the key worker or Deborah so that this can be monitored appropriately.

We would also appreciate it if you could dress your child in clothing which is easy to take off in the event of a much-needed trip to the toilet. Although accidents are inevitable, it makes it so much easier for the child if they can manage to take down/off the clothing they are wearing.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

## Food

**Please do not put food in your child's changing bags as nursery staff are conscious that there may well be allergic reactions for other children who encounter such products. Likewise, medication that may need to be taken by your child during a nursery session should be given to a practitioner so it can be left in a safe place (our kitchen cupboard) and out of reach of little hands.**

**Please also remember to include a complete change of clothing as there are activities that are inevitably likely to be messy, all clothes to be named where possible.**

**Please also note that NO NUT products are allowed in children's lunch boxes. This also includes peanuts (peanuts grow underground and are part of a different plant family, the legumes). Although less common, pine nuts which are included in pesto can also cause allergies. Many thanks.**

## Final Note

**Please see message below from one of our parents who has recently started a digital consultancy business in the local area:**

## Digi Pickle

**Digi Pickle is a recently started digital consultancy based in Harpenden. I have over a decade of experience working in eCommerce and digital marketing for some of the biggest brands in the UK.**

**If you already have a website or digital presence, getting the results you want from your digital space can seem daunting; whether that's increasing organic traffic to your website, growing your eCommerce revenue or getting more out of your social media accounts. This is where I come in! With the right mix of strategy, creativity and knowledge, I'll help you to improve in the areas you're focused on.**

**I also offer web design, working with you to create the ideal website for your business or project. All my websites look great on all devices, whether they're accessed from a desktop, mobile or tablet.**

**If you're ready to get started on your next online project, get in touch with Jo by emailing [hello@digi-pickle.com](mailto:hello@digi-pickle.com)**

Thank you for reading this newsletter and apologies to parents/carers who may have already received some of this information. The duplicate information is for parents/carers and children who are new to nursery.

*Best Wishes*

*Deborah and the Nursery Team*