



# Newsletter

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February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a lovely break for the forthcoming Half Term (from Monday, 15 February returning to Nursery on Monday, 22 February 2021).

## Second Half Term Themes

### Website

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

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

By double-clicking on the following links in this section, you will be able to access information as follows:

[Long Term Planning \(includes our Themes/Activities and Term Dates\) - Spring/Summer 2021](#)

[St Mary's Medium Term Planning \(includes our current weekly provision linking up to respective themes\)](#)

[Kinergy Medium Term Planning \(includes our current weekly provision linking up to respective themes\)](#)

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 to look at by linking into the 'News' page on the website and we would be grateful if you could take a moment to view this whenever possible.

## 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. We obviously appreciate that many families have been under pressure having to home-school so please do not feel that you have to spend considerable time preparing this.

## Personal belongings

We would be grateful if parents/carers could make sure that all 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. **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.

## Additional Sessions

For those who may be interested in taking up additional sessions, please let us know as soon as possible as spaces tend to go quickly.

## Tuesday Full Day & Thursday Full day Opening

Please e-mail Deborah should you wish to put your child's name down for a full day.

## Snack & Toy Contribution

We would like to thank all parents who made a donation towards the snacks as well as nursery resources. This really is very much appreciated.

This term (January 2021-March 2021), we would be really grateful if a further Snack and Toy Contribution could go towards the purchase of a new mud kitchen as well as other outdoor equipment. 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 e.g. 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 aware of this as the children may use the signs they have learnt in nursery at home.

## Speech and Language 'Drop-in Clinics'

The NHS Speech and Language Team are not currently running drop-in speech and language therapy clinics. Please use the following link to access further information on updates and additional advice and strategies:-

<https://www.hct.nhs.uk/our-services/childrens-speech-and-language-therapy/>

Please continue to contact their advice line for support on 01992 823093. This line is open to parents, carers and professionals who have a query about speech and language support.

### Ofsted Registration

We are pleased to announce that the nursery is now 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 Schedule of Fees is available under Policies and Procedures - Section 10.14 via the following link:-

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

### WellComm Toolkit

Deborah Campbell has 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).

All staff members have received training on how to use this kit.

### Staff Training

Safeguarding training has been carried out by the nursery team and will be updated when appropriate. The same will also apply to training with respect to Food Hygiene and Health and Safety.

We are also pleased to confirm that all staff members continue to attend appropriate training in order to update their Paediatric First Aid qualification. Our next Paediatric First Aid refresher training will take place on Monday, 12 April 2021.

We are still investigating training with respect to 'Social Stories'. Social Stories are a social learning tool that supports the safe and meaningful exchange of information between parents, professionals, and people with autism of all ages. The people who develop Social Stories are referred to as Authors, and they work on behalf of a child, adolescent, or adult with autism, the Audience. (Accessed: <https://carolgraysocialstories.com/social-stories/what-is-it/>).

We will also be accessing online BSL (British Sign Language) training as soon as possible.

### 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.

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/css/parents/>

### 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

All policies are available on our website. The Policies and Procedures Folder is at Nursery on a daily basis. Please contact Deborah should you have any queries.

## 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

There are a total of three nursery inset days which have been 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, 2017).

Term dates are listed below:

<b>Spring Term 2021</b>	
Inset day	Monday, 4 January 2021
Term begins	Tuesday, 5 January 2021
Term ends	Friday, 26 March 2021
Half term	Monday, 15 February to Friday, 19 February 2021
<b>Summer Term 2021</b>	
Inset day	Monday, 12 April 2021
Term begins	Tuesday, 13 April 2021
Term ends	Tuesday, 20 July 2021
May Bank Holiday	Friday, 3 May 2021
Half term	Monday, 31 May to Friday, 4 June 2021

**NB: Term dates for September 2021-July 2022 will be available as soon as possible.**

## POLITE NOTICE

### 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 make contact with you to clarify the situation. The safety of our children has to be considered by the setting at all times. 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 i.e. 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, 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

Should you be thinking of potty/toilet training your child, please liaise with the key worker 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 bags as nursery staff are conscious that there may well be allergic reactions for other children who come into contact with 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 a number of 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. Many thanks.**

## COVID-19



In line with Government advice, please note that parents/carers needing to enter the nursery building are required to wear masks. There is also a soap dispenser located on the wall adjacent to the blue nursery entrance door (left-hand side) which should be used by all parents/carers and visitors before entering the building. If you are unable to socially distance from others during pick up and collection times outside Nursery, please could you also continue to wear a mask. We will continue to follow Government guidance and building risk assessments will be updated appropriately

## Final Note

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

The Nursery Team

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