



## June 2021 Newsletter

Dear Families

At last it is lovely to see some proper summer weather! Please check the summer reminders further down in this letter.

The June newsletter seems to be all about staff news, as we hurtle to the end of the academic school year. Child places in Blossom Room are filling up nicely now but we do have a lot of spaces in the nursery school for our over 3's in september. Please recommend us to other families. I am really happy to chat with new families who would like to learn more about what we have to offer.

Best Wishes

**Lisa Fern**

Headteacher

### **Whitehouse Road - School Street Trial-**

**We sent the following to all families last week. As soon as arrangements have been confirmed we will keep you posted.**

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent Whitehouse Road School Street Survey. We had responses from over 70% of our families. The survey helped to identify some of the challenges that the scheme is likely to bring. We are working with South Oxford School Streets and Sustrans to find the best solutions we can to alleviate any inconvenience to our families. It is intended that this scheme will make travelling to and from school safer and healthier for the whole school community.



Although the dates and times of the trial scheme have not yet been officially confirmed by Oxfordshire County Council, it is expected that the scheme will start on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June. The trial will initially run for 6 weeks, which we expect to cover the last three weeks of this term and the first three weeks of the new term in September.

During the trial period the section of Whitehouse Road, after the junction with Marlborough Road, that provides access to both St Ebbes and Grandpont Nursery School, will only be open to those walking, cycling and scooting, residents, emergency vehicles, and those with an exemption, during drop-off and collection times.

The times that the scheme will operate have not yet been confirmed. It is expected that the scheme will operate between 08.30-09.15 in the mornings and between 14.30-15.45 in the afternoons.

We will confirm both the dates and times as soon as we have confirmation from the County Council.

**Volunteers-** the school streets team are looking for volunteers to man the barrier. If you feel that you could offer some time to do this then please email the office to let us know.

**Summer term necessities!** we sent this reminder out to families in our April newsletter but as the weather has got significantly hotter recently please be reminded of the following;

- **Hats-** Please send your child to nursery with a named sunhat. We do have a spare collection of hats but not enough to go round everyone.
- **Long sleeved T shirts-** are also useful for your children to wear as they protect skin from the sun a little bit.
- **Sun Cream-** Please ensure that you put sunscreen on your children **before they arrive at nursery**. We suggest that you use a once a day cream for this, to ensure that your child is as safe as possible from the sun and that we can avoid lots of skin on skin contact applying cream to lots of children. That is not ideal during a pandemic. However, if you would like your child to have a top up during the day, please provide a named bottle that we will keep in a safe place and supervise them to apply it themselves.  
Children who attend Mulberry and Blossom rooms please provide a named bottle and the staff will apply this for them.
- **Water-** just a reminder that water is accessible at all times for all the children at Grandpont and we will ensure they have extra drinks during the hot weather.
- **Shoes-** Please continue to send children to nursery in sensible shoes for child's play. Sandals and flip flops are cool in the hotter weather but do not allow children to climb and run safely.

**Nursery School parent meetings-** Parent meetings for children who are moving on to school in September are happening with your child's key person this week. If you have not yet made time for a chat please do this with Lucy, Cayley, Teresa or Cat and myself as soon as possible.

**Holiday Club-** We are now open for bookings for our holiday club in the summer. Holiday club will run from Friday 23rd July to Friday 20th August. The whole centre will be closed from Monday 23rd August until Friday 3rd September 2021. We are taking whole day bookings.

**Teresa Murphy** Teresa has been at Grandpont for over 27 years and it is with a heavy heart that I need to share with you that she will be retiring at the end of this term. Teresa is one of our lead members of staff and is also active on our governing body. I know that she has taught across generations of some families and she is the only remaining member of staff to have worked at Grandpont before it relocated from the site of Pegasus Place to this site on Whitehouse Road.

We will obviously be keen to have a good send off for her and we are waiting on Covid news regarding possibilities on gatherings in July. We are hoping a family gathering in the nursery garden on Friday 16th July after nursery may be possible. So please tentatively save the date.

**Blossom Room Staff News-** We have been successful in appointing two new members of staff who will begin their jobs with us over the summer. Lucia and Denise will both be starting in the Blossom Room and we are delighted that they are both joining the team. On a sadder note, Karen has decided to move on from Grandpont and has accepted a new role in Blackbird Leys. Karen has done a wonderful job in supporting us in getting Blossom Room back up and running magnificently since Covid closures and after our RI inspection outcome. We will be saying farewell to Karen in August. We currently have an advert running for a new childcare manager so please do listen out for people who may be interested in applying for this role. The job advert is on our website.

**South Oxford Family Room-** Stay and play sessions are now open and there will be an arts group available for interested parents and families on a Wednesday morning. Please contact Karen on [coordinator@sofr.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@sofr.org.uk) or look on the facebook page for more information.