



June Newsletter, 2018

Dear Families,

Last week I had the privilege to work for 3 days alongside a group of fantastic professionals who all work within the Early Years workforce in the city of Oxford. I attended a 'Rapid Action Lab' where we were able to share our expertise and brainstorm ideas for future provision for 0-5yr olds. I am hopeful that as we become self sustainable in the Family Room that we will benefit from future support from this group.

I hope you received an email containing a flier about the SOFR AGM that takes place on Friday 13th July from 10-11.30AM. If you use the Family Room or believe it offers an important role in this community we would love you to attend.

Best Wishes

Lisa Fern

Headteacher

For Action

Friends of Grandpont (FOG)- We are holding a meeting on **Monday 25th June at 7.00PM** to explore and decide on some possible fundraising opportunities for Grandpont. With school budgets being squeezed so much it is important that we are able to raise some funds to ensure all of the enrichment opportunities (such as hatching the chicks) that we want to offer are still available. Please come along and share your ideas. If you are unable to attend and want to be involved then please give your suggestions to myself, Teresa or Amy Watson or Emily Lucas (both parents with children in the nursery).

Children's clothing- Please be considerate of what you dress your children in when they come to nursery. Enclosed shoes and comfortable fitting clothes allow the children to climb and explore the environment safely. We also would like to encourage children to save their dressing up clothes for home. Our Grandpont ethos is to develop open ended play which is why we provide various cloaks and materials for dressing up allowing the children to be independent in their creativity.

For Information

Book Week- Next week at nursery and in the Blossom Room will be Book Week. All the children will be listening to and taking part in various activities related to the well-loved

story of **The Very Hungry Caterpillar**. During the day, children will have the opportunity to explore different activities based upon the story such as hunting for caterpillars, making fruit salads, symmetry printing, small world play and much more. If you have the story at home, please take time to enjoy the book with your child and encourage them to tell you the story as the week progresses. If you are unfamiliar with this story or do not have a copy at home, you could visit the local library to borrow a copy to enjoy with your child. There is also a lovely animated film of the story on youtube which would be fun to share with your child.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY>

Clay- Children in the nursery school have been having fun with clay this week and have been developing their physical skills as they manipulate the clay into various shapes. Here are some of the benefits of playing with clay;
Clay is very versatile and there are so many ways children can play and experiment with it.

- Clay gives them the opportunity to be creative and learn about texture, shape and form whilst having lots of fun..
- Manipulating clay helps children develop hand and eye co-ordination as they pound, pat and push the clay into shapes and objects.
- Clay also helps children develop the small muscles in their fingers and hands, known as fine motor skills, as they pinch, squeeze and prod the clay, adding detail to the shape or object.
- Through this manipulation, children can express their thoughts and ideas as they mould the clay to take on the form of their imagination.
- You can support children with clay play by providing an unhurried, spacious environment so that time can be spent developing and revisiting their work.S
- skills developed include imagination, perseverance, problem solving, teamwork, social interaction, and self- regulation.

Broad Beans- Blossom Room have grown the most amazing broad bean plants and all of the children have been excited to notice the beans starting to grow. We are looking forward to harvesting some very soon!

The Toddle Waddle- Thank you to the Blossom Room team for completing their Toddle Waddle last week in aid of Children with Cancer, UK. A wonderful time was had by all. If there is any outstanding sponsor money, please can we have it by Friday 22nd June. Thank you to everyone for their support. With this and the ice cream sale we have raised over £400- Brilliant.

Terms and conditions- If you are a Blossom Room parent, considering taking holiday in the next few months please refer to our terms and conditions regarding continued payments over this time.

Community News

Triathlon at SOFR- We hope as many of you as possible will get involved in the South Oxford family triathlon, organised by South Oxford Family room on Sunday 1st July, 9am -11am.

Our aim is to raise £8000 to help fund Tuesdays at Grandpont, our drop-in sessions with breastfeeding support by the charity OBS (Oxford Breastfeeding support).

The family fun triathlon is a great opportunity for the whole family to get involved. Its not a full length triathlon or a competitive event but a fun way for the family to get active, have fun and help raise funds for Tuesdays at the family room.

You will find more details on our web-site :- <http://triathlon.sofr.org.uk/> with down-loadable entry form and sponsorship form. If you want to collect sponsorship on-line then go to our event page on My BTDonate (see link below) Sponsorship page:- <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/southoxfamilytriathlon/466247> to do this, click on the 'Start Fundraising' button and set yourself up as a supporter then share your page with family and friends through facebook, twitter or e-mail.

If you can't take part, why not sponsor someone who is, offer your help on the day or even bake us a cake.

There is an entry fee of £10 per adult or £20 per family which will be used to cover costs of running the event such as the first aider, insurance etc.

If you collect more than £50 in sponsorship or £80 per family in sponsorship then the entry fee will be returned to you.