



## May 2021 Newsletter

Dear Families

May seems to be whizzing past us already and the weather seems to be a month late with what feels like April Showers!

At Grandpont we have really enjoyed watching our chicks hatch out over the past week. This week we will be able to let the children handle them if they would like to from time to time. Even the staff appreciate the Awe and Wonder of this wonderful opportunity, even though we have seen it many times before.

Please remember half term is the week beginning 31st May and we are also closed in the nursery school on Friday 28th May for an INSET day. Holiday club bookings are now being taken.

Best Wishes

**Lisa Fern**

Headteacher

**School Streets-** Some of you may have already heard that the Local Authority is proposing to implement the 'School Streets' scheme for Grandpont and St Ebbes in the coming weeks. What this means is that a barrier is likely to be in place, probably at the T junction with Whitehouse Road and Marlborough Road and vehicles will not be able to access the road beyond the barrier for drop off and collection times.



There has been a lot of consideration over the past few years on how to make Whitehouse Road a much safer place when children access it on their way to school and nursery. There are three main motivations that promote the need to run the safer streets program and these include; health benefits, road danger reduction and to promote independent mobility. You can read more about the scheme on the web link- <http://schoolstreets.org.uk/>

**A School Street is a road outside a school with a temporary restriction on motorised traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. The restriction applies to**

**school traffic and through traffic. The result is a safer, healthier and pleasant environment for everyone.**

**School Street schemes offer a proactive solution for school communities to tackle air pollution, poor health and road danger reduction. A School Street scheme will encourage a healthier lifestyle and active travel to school for families and lead to a better environment for everyone.**

The proposal is to start a scheme at the end of May, beginning of June and there is some discussion about alternative parking options for those people who really need to travel by car.

I will of course let you have more information as soon as I know more myself but I am keen that you are aware that this is an imminent possibility as some of you will need to consider how you will travel to drop your children off and pick up.

There will also be an opportunity for consultation further down the line.

**Lunch box advice from the Local Authority-** The LA has offered this guidance on packed lunches. As we expect our families to provide lunches at the moment I thought I would share this with you.

### **Vegtastic Lunchbox Hacks**

#### **60 Second Lunchbox Hacks**

In the 2020 Eat Them to Defeat Them survey of participating schools 36% reported an increase in vegetables in kids' packed lunches. Research tells us that fewer than two in every 100 packed lunches eaten in English primary schools meet nutritional standards and just one in five children had any vegetables or salad in their packed lunch.

Veg Power have produced a '60 Second Lunchbox Hacks' download [here](#) (see attached) and blog article Lunchbox Makeover: How to Add More Veg to Your Child's Lunchbox [here](#) for circulation through schools, featuring easy-to-implement ideas and top tips to help make this task as simple as possible and focus on what's in season e.g. cucumbers, peppers and early season tomatoes

**Covid-19 guidance-** new guidance came out for education in relation to our covid prevention and risk assessment last week. The current advice is not to make any changes to bubbles either inside or outside so for the time being we will continue to remain in our bubbles. The reasons for this are related to the current variants that are demonstrating rapid infection rates.

**Nursery School parent meetings-** As mentioned in our previous newsletter we would like to offer a Learning Conversation to our parents of children who will be leaving us to head to school in September. These meetings will be held in the mornings between 8.30 and 9.00AM in the garden, the week beginning the **14th June**. Please liaise directly with your child's key person to arrange an appointment.

**Staff vacancies-** Due to the numbers of children in Blossom Room rising back to pre covid times we are looking to readdress the staffing levels in the room. These posts are for L3 qualified staff and unqualified positions with the opportunity to train. The

positions can be found on the Oxfordshire county council website-  
<https://oxfordshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/SearchResults>  
Please feel free to share this news with friends and family.

**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.