



## September Newsletter

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new Term.

It has been lovely to catch up with parents and children after the summer break and so far everyone has settled back in to the new routine.

For those of you that were with us last term there are many changes to the daily routines and some children have a new Key Person. If you are in doubt about anything, please ask a member of staff.

Best Wishes

Lisa Fern

Headteacher

## GOOD BYES

We were all very sad to discover at the end of term that Gemma had secured a new job and that she will not be returning to Grandpont this term. Gemma has decided to take a change in her career and is keen to work in a 'Health' environment. Although we are all sad to see her go we wish her luck for the future.

Claire will be taking on Gemma's key children this term and she is quickly acquainting herself with her new children and their families.

### FOR Information

Forest Fridays- We will be encouraging children to be outside as much as possible on a Friday. During this time, we will be planning exciting and engaging activities to support outdoor learning opportunities. Please see our separate letter for more details. Wellies and waterproofs are required!

Website- We have a new website and are just waiting for the domain name to be changed over. The current website is still live and has much relevant information but we will not be updating this from now on. Keep an eye out for the new website to come live soon at the same web address.

Facebook- Please like and follow our Facebook page. I will use it for reminders and information. You can find us here;  
<https://www.facebook.com/grandpontnursery/>

Timings of the Nursery School Day-Just to clarify our new timings for everyone;

- 15 hour children- AM session- 9:00am-12:00 midday PM session-12:30pm-3:30pm ( you are welcome to pick up a few minutes early as we appreciate some of you will be doing school pick ups too.)
  - 30 hour children- 9:00am-3:30pm (lunch is provided at 11:30 for the half hour lunch club)
  - 15 hour children who pay for top up hours-if your child is just staying for half a day please see the 15 hour children session times above. Our morning session will finish at 12:00 midday.
  - Breakfast club- 8:00am-9:00am
  - Afterschool club- 3:00 for St Ebbes children or 3:30pm-6:00pm
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Please use the Mulberry Room Entrance for dropping and collecting children from breakfast and Afterschool clubs.

New Children's tea Party- All the new children that started with us in the Nursery School this term are invited, with their families to join us for a tea Party on Thursday 28th September at 3:30-4:30pm. This is an opportunity for you to meet each other as well as being a small celebration for our new children. We hope you can join us.

### FOR ACTION

Mulberry Room Entrance- As we are now using the space in the entrance hall for children we will need to keep the outside door locked for safeguarding reasons. Please ring the bell and wait for a member of staff to let you in.

Invoices- Aga has been working hard to put our invoices into a less complicated format. Please ensure that all invoices are paid by the due date. If you have any questions regarding your invoice please come and talk to us.

Parking- Already this term I have noticed that there have been cars parked directly outside the nursery gates while children are dropped off or collected from Nursery. Please use the free parking spaces on the road during these times to ensure we have a safe and accessible entrance to the school. It is imperative for health and safety reasons that this area remains clear of vehicles as it is the emergency entrance for the recreation ground, SOAP, the railway as well as for ourselves.

Absences- This term we are working on reducing the absence rates of children who attend the Nursery School at Grandpont. Did you know;

Regular attendance at school is vital to help children achieve and get the best possible start in life.

Children who frequently miss school often fall behind. There is a strong link between good school attendance and achieving good results. For example, only 12% of pupils with below 80% school attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A\*-C including English and Maths, compared to 68% for pupils with attendance greater than 95%.

It is important good habits start early and children who are good attenders at nursery make great progress in their early learning and are 'school ready' when they head into their reception class.

If your child will be absent from nursery at any time then please contact the school office by phone or email before 9:00am (or 12:00 if they are not coming in the afternoon) and let us

know, with the reason your child is not attending. If we do not hear from you we will contact you to check everything is ok.

### Community News

South Oxford Family Room- We are delighted to have appointed Karen Wilson to take on the role of the project development co-ordinator for SOFR. Karen started with us last week and she has many ideas to bring to her new role. If you would like to contact Karen, or find out more about SOFR then do find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SouthOxfordFamilyRoom/app/190322544333196/> or email [contact@sofr.org.uk](mailto:contact@sofr.org.uk)

South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP): Open after school on Thursdays and Fridays until half-term, starting 14th September. Free outdoor inclusive play and activities for all. Under 7s must be accompanied by an adult at all times and over 7s can stay unaccompanied, but must be registered with SOAP to do so. If you are new to the area and haven't yet discovered SOAP, we are located just behind Grandpont nursery on Whitehouse road. Follow the lane running down to the railway and Hogacre. Please come and visit! See our website for more details. <http://www.soapoxford.org.uk/>

Local Guided Walk- The local history group are holding a guided walk on 24th September. More information can be found here; <http://www.southoxford.org/>

### Diary Dates-

September 4th and 5th Grandpont closed for INSET days

28th New children's tea party 3:30-4:30pm

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29th Harvest Festival and apple pressing

October 4th Centre tours for new families

23rd Half term week-Nursery School closed, Mulberry Room open

November

December

6th Centre tours

19th Break up for Christmas- school closes at 1:15pm. There is no PM session.

Dates may change and be added from time to time.

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