



November 2020 Newsletter

Dear Families

Welcome to the November newsletter.

This is going to be quite a busy one so grab yourself a cuppa and settle down for a good read!!

Best Wishes

Lisa Fern

Headteacher

Covid-19 arrangements

I would like to reiterate the comments I made in the lockdown letter I sent to you the other week. Please remember:

- When coming to the main entrance please stand in the marked space to allow social distancing from the staff who answer the door. (If you need to wait for a while there is a chair for your convenience)
- We would prefer not to wear face masks when we are talking to parents at drop off and collection times as we feel this is a friendly approach. **In order for us to be able to do this safely and comfortably then please respect a 2m distance between us.**
- Please make sure you also use your child's bubble entrances to drop off and collect your children rather than using other nursery entrances and crossing over bubbles.
- Please can you also ensure any older children remain by your side at drop off and collection times and not run around the outdoor spaces or play with the SOFR equipment.
- Please remain at the end of the SOFR garden that belongs to your child's bubble entrance.



We need to ensure we are reducing as many contacts between adults as possible on the Grandpont premises.

Fantastic OFSTED News- I am delighted to inform you that we had a very positive monitoring conversation over half term with OFSTED regarding Blossom Room childcare. Karen was able to tell them about the work that has been happening and all the improvements and changes that we have made. Karen, Sarah, Phil and Lulu have embedded some great new routines, set up a new planning system as well as making changes to the learning spaces. Claire and Mia have also done a wonderful job in setting

up our two year old base and I am delighted to inform you that we are now able to have funded places for two year olds again.

Although this monitoring visit will not change our current OFSTED judgement, it is a clear indication that as soon as inspections are back up and running we will be ready and keen to have them back to visit. You can read about this here;

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50155343>

We are now making it a priority to fill up the remaining places in our childcare. This will help us recover some of our loss of funding from the Covid-19 closure.

Please spread the word to friends and families. We have also amended our starting age from 1 year to 10 months, which we hope will be useful to some families.

Staffing- We will be sad to say goodbye to Philip from Blossom Room at Christmas. Philip has decided to look for a new challenge in his life. We will all be very sad to see him go along with his passion for singing and reading stories (in funny voices that really makes the children laugh!)

I will also be teaching for two days a week from January, I have been dipping my toe in the water a bit this term in supporting Cat's group but from January I will be working alongside Teresa and Anne on a Thursday and Friday in Willow Bubble and working in a job share with Cat.

Nursery Lunches- I know that many of you were delighted that we were able to provide a hot meal for your children when we completed our trial lunch week with the Yum Yum Food Company just before half term. Thank you to those who have completed the survey we sent out about this. The nursery leadership team will be meeting shortly to review all of the feedback and decide the next steps with this.

Providing a hot meal is not as simple as it may seem. If we use a food provider such as the School Lunch company, that we have used in the past then we are subject to paying a management fee, which we are unable to do. Providing food in schools requires a lot of attention to health and safety requirements regarding allergies and food preparation, so all of these things need to be considered. There will be more news to follow.

Tea Time Menus- Karen has done some work on improving and setting a tea time menu which has been trialed for a few weeks now and is going well. There is a copy of the menu up on the Mulberry Room door for you to see.

School Place Applications- If your child is currently in Willow or Oak bubbles (and turn 5yrs old between September 2021 and September 2022) then you will need to be making an application to oxford county council for a school place for September. More information can be found here-

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/infant-and-primary-school>

If you are still not sure what to do then please talk to one of us and we will be able to point you in the right direction.

Changes of Clothes- Please continue to ensure your child has a change of clothes in nursery, in a bag to go on their peg. Our collection of nursery spares has diminished

recently so if you have any 3 and 4 year old aged clothes that are no longer required we will be happy to receive donations to top up our stocks.



Google Classroom- There are still families who have not yet logged on to your child's google classroom. The staff are enjoying sharing news and pictures about what your children are up to during the day. If you are unable to log in then please talk to your child's key person and we will help you with this.

Christmas- We know that we will not be able to carry out our Grandpont traditional Christmas sing song as normal this year. However, we will be celebrating in style. We are working out how to collate a short concert video with children singing in each bubble that we will be able to share with you on the google classrooms. To ensure that you are happy with us doing this then please complete the survey found here- <https://forms.gle/NjhSLjDTVkj8NpWNA> to give your permission.



Christmas Party- We will also be having a Christmas party (in bubbles) on the last day of term, where we will be providing a party lunch. We will be asking for a small donation of £2.00 for this and our morning children will be invited to stay for lunch on this day too. There will be more information to follow.

Christmas Jumper Day- Friday 11th December. Please send children into nursery in Christmas jumpers or christmas clothes on this day and bring a donation for *Save the Children*.

Information Video- I am exploring the possibility of putting together a short promotion video to share with prospective parents as we are currently unable to hold visits to the nursery. I am looking for someone to help me put this together. We have very limited expertise amongst the staff team and wondered if there is a parent/friend willing to volunteer to help us put this together. If you think you can help then please send me an email- head@grandpontnurseryschool.co.uk. It doesn't need to be anything fancy but an opportunity to celebrate and share our fantastic nursery with prospective parents. Please give your permission for your child to be in this video via the link above.

Friends of Grandpont (FOG)

FOG is a group of people from the community who are willing and keen to help us to organise some fun events and raise some extra cash for Grandpont- In the last newsletter I said I was keen to start thinking about possible ways to to raise money to support our nursery resources.

We will not be able to run our previously successful Christmas Market this year but I have spoken to a couple of parents who may be willing to organise a Christmas Outdoor Cafe on the last day of term. If you are either interested in helping to organise this or have any other ideas it would be great to have some festive fun and raise money too.

South Oxford Family Room (SOFR)

