



December Newsletter, 2018

Dear Families,

It feels like it has been a very long term and I am sure everyone is looking forward to a rest over the Christmas break. I want to say thank you to the brilliant Grandpont team who have been making December a busy but fun month for the children; glittering, singing, making and generally having some good Christmas fun. I am certainly looking forward to our Christmas singing on Friday.

If I don't have a chance to speak to you in person before the end of the week, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful new year and look forward to seeing everyone again in January.

Best Wishes

Lisa Fern

Headteacher

For Information

Christmas and the plans for the end of term-

Wednesday 19th December- Christmas Lunch for those who stay for lunch.

Friday 21st December- Christmas Party day and last day of term.

- Party lunch prepared and provided by the Nursery.
- Morning children are welcome to stay for lunch
- **Christmas Singing 7.30-8.15PM** -new time **12.45PM** parents are invited to join us for a small concert to celebrate Christmas. All children attending Grandpont on this day will be involved, including the Blossom Room Children.
- **1.15pm**- home time and start of the Christmas holidays. (Blossom Room is open till 6pm as usual)
N/B- If you have paid for a booking on this afternoon and require childcare, then we will honour that booking. If you have paid for a booking but would like to take your children home early, unfortunately we will not be able to reimburse payments for this session.
Please let your child's key person know your end of day plans before this day so we can prepare for the afternoon.

End of term and January 2019 arrangements-

- We break up in the Nursery school, for Christmas on Friday 21st December at 1.15pm
- Blossom Room and Holiday Club will reopen on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.
- The whole centre is closed for staff training on Monday 7th January 2019.
- The whole centre and Nursery school reopens on Tuesday 8th January 2019

Easy Peasy- In January, we will be joining a pilot program to trial a new app that promotes parent partnerships and supports parents to play simple and fun games with your children. easy peasy is an app developed through a strong research base and developed to promote parent partnerships and home learning. You can read more on their website <https://easypeasyapp.com/>



This is what Easy Peasy have to say;

Parents and the home learning environment influence children's early development just as much as the quality of the early education they are receiving through your setting. To close developmental gaps, you need to get parents on board!

During EasyPeasy's 20 week journey, we send parents fun, simple, educational games ideas to their mobile, creating more playful situations at home. EasyPeasy games are not on screen, but played in the real world.

Games are designed by experts to promote positive parent-child interaction and support progress against Early Learning Goals outlined in the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Framework.

Watch this space for more information coming your way in January.

Parent meetings- with consideration to the responses on the parent questionnaire we sent out in the summer as well as through discussion with the team, we have decided to make some changes to our parent consultation opportunities in the nursery school. In January I will give you more information about how this will look but we are keen to move towards a situation where all families will have the opportunity each term to meet with their child's key person to discuss their learning and progress.

Car Parking- There are some ongoing discussions with the council regarding the situation with the traffic along Whitehouse Road at collection and drop off times. Hopefully in the new year I will be able to share some more information regarding the parking situation. Until then, please continue to park safely and in the appropriate places provided.



For Action

DT and Modelling Area- If you have any interesting boxes or items we could use in our modelling area over christmas, that you don't want to keep and you can bare to hold on to them until January, we would love to take them off your hands! Thanks in advance.

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- we are looking for new parents to support us and join this group.

Family Christmas Market- I want to use this opportunity to say a final 'Thank You' to everyone who helped out in one way or another to make our Christmas Market so successful last week. I can confirm we made around £2000, which we hope to spend on enhancing our resources at Grandpont. The raffle itself made nearly £1000. Well done to everyone who was successful in receiving one of the fabulous prizes that were donated to us.

If anyone has any exciting fundraising ideas that you would like to organise over the next couple of terms then please come and see me for a chat.

Community News

Saturdads / Family Fun session leader vacancy

Grandpont Nursery School Association is looking to appoint a session leader for South Oxford Family Room's monthly Saturdads / Family Fun Stay and Play sessions. This friendly session is ideal for working dads (and mums) to enjoy quality play time with their children. The sessions are on the 3rd Saturday of the month between 10am & 1pm (Working hours 9.30-1.30 plus 1 hour planning & preparation). The role will suit an organised and outgoing individual who can



work independently, good communication skills are essential. The successful applicant will open and set up the family room and gardens with toys and equipment, plan and organise craft activities and welcome and talk to the families who attend. Remuneration is £75 per monthly session. Payment will be made on a casual claim basis.

This role requires the successful applicant to undertake an enhanced DBS check. The successful applicant will be supported by the project co-ordinator and committee.

If you would like to discuss the position please ring Project coordinator, Karen on 018655 242900 option 1 or Yan (Chair) on 07701 031888.

To apply please e-mail a CV to coordinator@sofr.org.uk, or post your CV and contact details to South Oxford Family Room, 47, Whitehouse Road, Oxford, OX1 4QH.

Christmas Closure of Family Room

The family room will be closed from Monday 24th December until Thursday 3rd January. It will reopen again on Friday 4th January for stay and Play at 9.30am.

Karen and Wendy wish you all a very Happy Christmas.