



October Newsletter, 2018

Dear Families,

It is certainly beginning to feel more Autumnal now and a bit chilly. We have been encouraging the children to develop their independent skills when getting ready to go out to play, with putting on coats and boots. Always a challenge but some children are very competent with this. Please also encourage this independent skill at home too!

Just a reminder to keep an eye on the website and facebook page as well as reading this newsletter to keep up with what is happening at Grandpont.

Best Wishes

Lisa Fern

Headteacher

Message from Blossom Room

Staffing News- We are delighted to inform you that Tracey Perkin has taken on a permanent position in the Blossom Room team as a key person. Tracey started with us on a casual basis in the summer and has quickly become part of the team.

We are still looking to recruit 2 childcare assistants and we have an advert for these roles on the oxfordshire website-

<https://oxfordshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/Details/66808/L1ZhY2FuY3kvU2VhcmNoUmVzdWx0cz9yZXRyaWV2ZUZpbHRlcj10cnVl>

Hometime Baskets- Each child in Blossom Room has an allocated shelf with a basket, where all letters, pictures and other various items to be taken home are put. Please check these when you pick up your children.

Soup and Sparklers- Please save the date of **Friday 2nd November** when the Blossom Room will be holding their annual '**Soup and Sparklers**' event. Please come along between 4.00 and 5.30pm. There will be an opportunity to toast a marshmallow and sample some tasty soup as well as the chance to have a look at your child's learning journey. If your child does not attend Blossom Room on a Friday at this time, you are still welcome to join us for this event. As we are tight on space, for health and safety

purposes, we need to limit this just to parents of children attending the Blossom Room, on this occasion.

We would be delighted to accept food donations on this day. Please talk to Sam or your child's key person about what they would like donated.

9.15AM Starters- Thank you for arriving promptly in the mornings now and thank you to those who have been waiting in the entrance hall until 9.15 when your child's key person welcomes the children into the room. This has allowed a much calmer start to the day.

Key Group special times- We have been delighted with how successful it has been in introducing this special key person time into the daily routine in Blossom Room. As 'Key people' we feel we have been able to share with our key children some special moments and it is giving us the opportunity to get to know the children even better and plan some lovely learning sessions for them.

If you arrive at nursery during this time and noone is able to answer the door to you then please either be patient or take your child to the reception area where the office staff will be able to help you.

Message from The Nursery School

Book Week- We have loved reading and immersing ourselves in the Bear Hunt story. The children have all experienced this book now and have been outside on a bear hunt. The children have also been exploring the woods as part of this work and it has been great to see children having an adventure in this wonderful environment we are so lucky to have in our grounds.

Design Technology and Model Making- Some children are really keen to design and make various models at the moment both in woodwork and out of various boxes. We are always looking for donations of clean boxes and recycling as well as wood (that is clean and not too rough) to keep up with demand in this area!

For Information

Half term week- is the week commencing Monday 22nd October and the Nursery School will be closed. If you require any holiday club sessions then please get bookings in. Places are going fast!

End of term and January 2019 arrangements-

- We break up in the nursery school and Blossom Room, for Christmas on Friday 21st December.
- 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

Details of end of term Christmas celebrations will be coming their way soon.

For Action

Late arrivals- We have noticed that most children are now arriving on time in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation with this. If you are late in for one reason or another then please ensure you have filled in a slip at the office so that we can ensure your children are registered for H&S purposes.

Waterproofs and wellies- Please ensure your child has a pair of NAMED wellies and a jacket at nursery for when we go outside to play. These can be left with us, so your child is ready to play outdoors.

Named clothing- Please name all your child's clothing to ensure a safe return if it comes off during the session.

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.

FOG Family BBQ- Thanks to everyone who joined us at the family BBQ. The weather was very kind to us and we had a great time. It was lovely to see many new families there as well as seeing old families and catching up with how everyone is getting on at school. We made a profit of around £250 for this event. We are going to be buying new sand for the sandpits!

Family Christmas Market-A recent letter was sent to you regarding our Family Christmas Market. Sign up sheets have been put up in the entrance hall and a planning meeting has been arranged for **Tuesday 16th October at 7PM**. If you have any great ideas and would like to be involved then please come along. If you can't make the meeting but would like to be involved please talk to Teresa or Lisa or sign up in the entrance hall.

Community News

In the Night Garden- Sunday 4th and Monday 5th November at SOFR. From 5.00pm-7.00pm. This is a family event with a light and sensory trail. Ideal alternative to fireworks. Tickets can be purchased from SOFR or the Nursery school reception.

If you are able to volunteer to help run this event please contact a Karen or yan in the Family Room.



In the light garden

Sunday 4th November

**Family ticket
£5**

5pm-7pm

Tickets from the family room on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays

If not sold out, they will be available on the day.

A family event with light and sensory trail at SOFR, an ideal alternative to fireworks for young children.

Refreshments available.



Family Fireworks and Bonfire Night at SOAP South Oxford Adventure Playgroup and Lake Street Nursery (Playgroup) present: Saturday 3rd November 2018

Proudly supported by Finder Keepers Family-friendly fireworks display and bonfire. BBQ, bar, hot chocolate, glow toys, and more.

Gates: 5pm. Bonfire: 6pm. Fireworks 6.30pm. Tickets £3 children and £6 adults. Available from Monday 8th October from SOAP, Grandpont Nursery, Lake St Playgroup (during opening hours) or at drop off and pick up time from St Ebbe's and New Hinksey Schools. Please buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

ALSO...

The wonderful Family Fireworks and Bonfire Night needs you!

We need around 45 stewards to keep things running safely and smoothly. All funds raised go to SOAP and Lake Street Nursery so as well as being great fun it's all for a good cause.

Details are as follows:

- * Saturday 3rd November at SOAP
- * Gates Open at 5pm, Bonfire at 6pm, Fireworks 6.30pm
- * Most stewards required from around 4pm, through to 7.30ish

To be part of the stewarding team please email lisamseddon@yahoo.com.au

BONUS: Event stewards will get sent a link to a special website where tickets have been put aside for their families. Stewards won't need a ticket.

South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP):- Open during half-term for free outdoor play and activities. Mon 22nd to Friday 26th; 10am-4pm. All children welcome. Children aged 7+ years can stay without a parent/carer, but must be registered with SOAP. Registration forms on our website. Hope to see you there! Please note we are closed at weekends, and will be closed for the winter from 29 October 2018.



 **Jigsaw at South Oxford family room** 

Mondays **Drop in**

17th September **12.30 - 2.30pm**

15th October
A session for families
with children with additional needs

You'll get a warm welcome, meet parents who will understand what you are going through and if you bring your children, it's great environment for your children to play in. Refreshments and snack available

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