

So the clocks went back and it's getting dark early which can only mean one thing – fireworks, cold autumn walks and Christmas are just around the corner! We have lots of fun activities planned this term including an open day and a trip out, for which we will send out more details soon.

Lisa, Jo, Janet and Helena

### **Key Person Meetings**

Come and have a chat to your child's key person to see how they are getting on in nursery on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. You will be able to make an appointment, please sign up on the appointment list on the nursery parent notice board. If you are unable to make it or have anything else you would like to share with us then please do speak to your child's key person.

### **30 Hours Childcare and Tax free childcare**

From September 2017 the government extended the current offer of 15 hours free childcare for three and four year olds to 30 hours for some eligible families. They are also introducing Tax Free Childcare.

To find out if you may be entitled to the extended 30 hour offer or eligible for Tax Free childcare please visit <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> where you will be able to apply.

### **Disability Access Fund (DAF)**

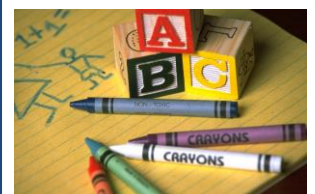
The Disability Access Fund was introduced in April 2017 to 'enable Early Year's Providers to anticipate and make reasonable adjustments to their provision and increase the capacity to support disabled children and children with special educational needs'. 3 and 4 year old children are eligible if they receive free Early Years Education and if they are in receipt of Disability Living allowance. DAF provides the Early Years Setting an additional annual amount of £615 per child for those who are eligible. If you are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance for your child then we would be very grateful if we could have a copy of the letter so that we can send it to the funding team at Gloucestershire County Council which will enable us to claim the extra funding which we can then use to support your children further in nursery. Please come and speak to me if you have any questions. Thank you.

### **School Admissions 2018**

If your child is starting school next September then you should have received a letter from Gloucestershire County Council with details of how to apply for a school place. The deadline to respond to this letter is the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and you will find out your school place on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018. This place must be accepted by the 30<sup>th</sup> April or you may lose your space. More information can be found here:- <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-admissions/apply-for-a-primary-or-infant-school-place/>

### **Ready for School**

It may seem a long time away but there are several things that you can be doing to support your child to be ready for school. I have attached a guide about being school ready and the skills you can help your child with at home, however this will differ for every child depending on their needs. Please come and speak to us if you have any concerns or questions.



### Tapestry

It has been great to see your comments and likes on our observations on Tapestry and we have also really enjoyed seeing what the children get up to at home. We have noticed that there are a couple of parents who have not yet accessed their child's learning journal on Tapestry. I have resent the activation links but please do come and ask if you are still unable to gain access.

### Christmas Mince Pies! (Makes 12)

Ingredients:

- 10 oz. Plain Flour
- 2 oz. Icing Sugar
- 5 oz. Margarine or Butter
- 1 Egg
- 1 Jar of mincemeat



### Method

- Sieve the flour and icing sugar together.
- Add the margarine and mix until breadcrumbs
- Add egg and mix to dough.
- Roll out and cut into round shapes, 2 for each pie.
- Place one half of each pie into a mould tin.
- Add mincemeat and place the other half of the pastry on top.
- Baste with a little milk and bake in the oven at 180°C /Gas Mark 4 for 20 minutes.

### Session Times

Please could we remind all parents that our morning session finishes at **1pm** or **12pm** if your children are not staying for lunch. Our afternoon session ends at **3.30pm**. It is very important that you collect your child on time so that we can maintain our ratios and so that staff are able to leave nursery on time. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Staffing

I would like to let you know that I will be going on maternity leave in mid-January and that Jo Neale will be covering my role whilst I am on maternity leave. We will also be recruiting for another member of staff to work within the nursery. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask.

### Dates for your Diary

- Children in Need – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- Key Person Meetings – 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- Christmas Fayre - 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017
- Children's Christmas Party – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017



### Term Dates:

- End of Autumn Term 2 - 15th December
- Spring term 1 2018 - 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018
- End of Spring Term 2 2018 - 9th February 2018
- HALF TERM 12 – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Start of Spring Term 2 - 19th February 2018
- End of Spring Term 2 2018 - 29th March 2018
- Summer Term 1 – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018
- Bank Holiday – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- End of Summer Term 1 – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018
- Spring Bank Holiday / Half term – 28<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018
- Summer Term 2 - 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018
- End of Summer Term - 24th July 2018



### Christmas Fayre

This will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Please do come along and support us and let us know if you are able to make a cake or two for our cake sale.



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# Am I ready for school?



## Tips for parents

When your child starts primary school there are a number of skills that they should ideally have mastered. Use this sheet as a guide to help track their progress.

### Self-care

- I know when to wash my hands
  - I can wipe my nose
- I can ask for help if I don't feel well

### Speaking & literacy

- I am interested in reading stories & looking at picture books
- I am able to talk about myself, my needs & feelings
  - I am practising recognising my name when it's written down

### Getting dressed & undressed on my own

- I can button & unbutton my clothes
- I can put my own shoes & socks on
- I can put my coat on & use a zip

### Interest in the world & new activities

- I enjoy learning about the world around me
  - I am interested in exploring new activities or environments
  - I like asking questions

### Eating

- I can use a knife & fork
- I can open my packed lunch on my own
  - I am confident at opening wrappers & packaging

### Writing skills

- I like tracing patterns & colouring in
- I enjoy experimenting with different shaped scribbles
  - I am practising holding a pencil

### Going to the toilet

- I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe myself properly & flush
- I can wash & dry my hands without any help

### Independence

- I am happy to be away from my mummy, daddy or my main carer
- I am happy to tidy my belongings & look after my things
- I am feeling confident about starting school

### Listening & understanding

- I am able to sit still and listen for a short while
  - I can follow instructions
- I understand the need to follow rules

### Sharing & turn taking

- I can share toys & take turns
- I can play games with others
- I can interact with other children

### Counting skills

- I enjoy practising counting objects
- I like saying number rhymes & playing counting games
  - I can recognise some numbers when they are written down

### Routines

- I have practised putting on my uniform & getting ready to leave on time
- I have a good bedtime routine so I'm not feeling tired for school
- I'm learning to eat at the times I will on school days

