

November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of the first half term of the school year, it is lovely to reflect on how well the children are all progressing in their explorations of our environment and the fun they have been having learning through play. Pumpkins have been investigated, painted, decorated and representations made. Puddles have been splashed in, colours have been mixed and we have all enjoyed noticing the changes in the season with the beautiful autumnal colours.

As Halloween approaches, please see below some helpful guidance of enjoying the season and staying safe.

https://capt.org.uk/halloween/?utm_source=capt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=parentsoct25&mc_cid=376a41f0ed&mc_eid=d72f37d350

As you all know, we have been so excited to see the development of our Forest School area and to see it being enjoyed by the children. We have had some lovely Forest School focussed sessions and some lovely exploration sessions this term. Jess and Dawn have been busy this week creating some more useable space for us all to explore over the next few weeks. See below for an update.

We have a resident Robin who has been watching proceedings, introducing himself to the children... and following them to check to see if there might be some delicious worms!

BEST START IN LIFE STRATEGY

The Government have recently introduced the Best Start in Life campaign which aims to increase awareness of the role of the early years in a child's development, increase parental understanding of things they can do in their child's early years and how early education supports child development.

The website is useful for checking up-to-date funding information and for sharing ideas for families. Please see below for the link.

<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>

THE LULLABY TRUST

This website offers some really useful information about safer sleeping for babies under twelve months old.

<https://www.lullabytrust.org.uk/baby-safety/safer-sleep-information/>

Parenting can be so rewarding and we are aware that it can also sometimes be exhausting and overwhelming. If there is ever anything you'd like to chat about, please speak to your keyperson or another member of the team.

RAINBOWS – UNDER TWO YEARS OLD

Plates and forks at the ready, everyone got involved in exploring and experimenting with the rainbow spaghetti. The children practiced their fine motor skills, and use of the pincer grip and palmer grasp. They focused on purposeful movements to grip, control and release the spaghetti, piling it onto their plates and transferring it to different ones. They used forks to scoop and twirl. We used our senses to observe how the spaghetti wiggled with movements, and some children enjoyed getting stuck in with their hands, squashing and squelching the sticky pasta between their fingers.



SWANS AND RAINBOWS OVER TWO YEARS OLD



As we grow and during our time at nursery, you may see us engaging in Schematic play.

This happens when babies, toddlers and young children repeat actions or behaviours to explore the world around them and find out how things work.

Through our curiosity and interests, we have been developing our ideas and extending what we already know. Our adults notice what we are exploring and plan stimulating experiences for us to enjoy and learn. We benefit from these opportunities to repeat and practise different actions. For example, actions of up and down, going from side to side and rotating supports early writing development.

There are many exciting schemas that we develop in nursery. You may have seen us exploring these ideas at home too.

Trajectory play involves understanding how things move. We may throw objects or investigate the movement of water.

You may have seen us **Transporting** our objects or toys in bags, containers or trucks. We are developing our ideas of moving things around and the different ways in which we can do this.

By engaging in **Connecting** Schematic play, we are observing and noticing how things join, connect and attach together.

We might be seeing our world through different perspectives, in **Orientation** schematic play. We might enjoy turning ourselves or objects upside down, or back to front.

Often, during construction activities we create enclosures. We can design fences and barricades for ourselves and our toys in our block play. This is **Enclosing** Schematic play.

We may be finding excitement in movement that goes round and round. That might be ourselves, twirling and twisting or the wheels on our vehicles. We are finding fascination with the idea of **Rotation**.

Can you see me? We are enjoying hiding or covering ourselves with materials. Through wrapping objects, teddies and dolls in paper or blankets, we will be exploring our ideas of **Enveloping**.

Through these types of play, we are continuing to think creatively with curiosity and with the motivation to find things out and learn more about our world

FOREST SCHOOL UPDATE



This term, we've introduced the children to Forest School; an exciting and engaging way to explore the outdoors and connect with the natural world. Through a gentle introduction, the children have started to become familiar with our woodland setting and the Forest School approach, which encourages curiosity, exploration, and hands-on learning.

Next term, we'll build on this foundation with more opportunities to develop confidence and skills in the outdoors. The children will take part in a range of activities such as climbing, balancing, swinging, collecting, building and bug hunting; all designed to support their physical development, observation skills, and understanding of the natural environment.

We'll also be involving the children in looking after our site. Through simple maintenance tasks, they'll learn how to care for the woods and begin to understand what it means to be environmentally responsible.

Forest School is all about fostering a connection with nature, building resilience, and encouraging a sense of wonder, and we're very much looking forward to seeing how the children continue to grow in this space.

HALF TERM FUN

If you're looking for more inspiration for things to do. Please see below for some autumnal fun.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/seasonal>

Science Oxford – If you've not been before, it needs to be added to your 'to do' list. It's an incredible place filled with experiments and resources to inspire awe and wonder.

<https://scienceoxford.com/whats-on/>

Westgate Library – Some of our children thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Library this week. Apparently it was 'awesome!'. We will continue to visit in small groups throughout the year. Here are some more times you might like to go.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/oxfordshire-libraries-11205986630>

Oxford Museum of Natural History – It doesn't matter how many times you visit, there is always something new to see that you missed or wasn't there the last time.

<https://oumnh.ox.ac.uk/events>

BREAKFAST SESSION FOR SWANS

In response to our Summer parent survey, we looked at our provision to see where we had potential capacity to support our families in new and/or extended ways. We are really pleased to confirm that we are able to offer some breakfast sessions for our Swans children. These sessions will begin at 8.30am and will include breakfast (please arrive before 8.45am to ensure you have plenty of time to eat breakfast. Sessions will need to be booked for a term at a time. We will be sending out more details to our Swans families next week.

DROPPING OFF AND COLLECTION ROUTINES

FRONT DOOR INTO THE BUILDING and FOYER - We are aware that it may feel a little uncomfortable but please can we kindly request that you do not let anyone else through as you go through the front door. This helps us to know who is in the building and to keep everyone safe, thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27th to 31st October - Half term for Swans children

Please also see our curriculum plans for more details of what we are planning for this term. See attached and also see website for these.



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QR CODE

The poster features three photographs: the top left shows a group of children and adults with a reindeer; the top right shows children with Santa Claus; the bottom left shows a group of children in a train carriage. The bottom of the poster has a festive illustration of Santa Claus, reindeer, and a train.