

July 18th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As the academic year draws to a close, it is always a time of reflection. It is so lovely to look back and think about how much the children have grown in so many ways and how much progress they have made – awesome each and every one of our lovely children.

We all send lots of luck and warmest wishes to our children who are moving on to school in September – please do stay in touch!

It has been a year of change and it definitely feels like it's been a bit of a roller coaster – but roller coasters are often lots of fun! Thank you for your patience as we all adjusted and for your continued support throughout the year. Thank you all for all of your warmth and kindness this year as we have settled into the changes in provision and it is so lovely to chat with you about how well things are going.

SUMMER SINGALONG FOR OUR CHILDREN WHO ARE HEADING OFF TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER

We would like to invite you to join us for a collective singalong to celebrate our time together at Grandpont on Tuesday 22nd July at **1.30pm**.

You are welcome to take your child home after the singalong, if you would like to, Nursery will be open for normal hours on this day.

GOFUNDME

We have been overwhelmed with the lovely donations that we have received to our Go Fund Me page. The money will be put to good use in developing our outdoor space which is beautiful, but needs a little TLC.

Colin our caretaker is busy working on plans to create a marvellous back-to-back mud kitchen for both areas of the garden. We are very excited to see the results. We are also working on sourcing some fabulous new resources to enhance our loose parts provision.

Many, many thanks to everyone who has contributed. We would be really grateful if you could share the fundraiser with your friends and family. Thanks again!



<https://gofund.me/e89dccd6>



SWANS AND RAINBOWS – OVER TWO YEARS OLD

As August 2025 approaches we begin to reflect on all that our Grandpont nursery school community has experienced together this year. Some of us will be saying a fond farewell as we embark on new adventures and journeys, at primary school.



During our time at Grandpont, we embrace the importance of these precious moments of early childhood and everything we may be seeing and experiencing for the first time. Our partners in learning notice and respond to our emerging skills and encourage us to develop and learn more, by finding out and acting on our curiosity. What does school readiness mean for us? That we are caring, able to show kindness, growing in confidence, have a sense of who we are and what we can do. Whilst continuing to develop our resilience, independence and perseverance and enjoying our interactions with others.

We think about how much we have changed as we have grown and developed our sense of 'being me.' We may have been at Grandpont since we were very little and as we look at photos, we see so many differences now we are 4. "I couldn't climb up the hill then, but I can now!"

The relationships that we have developed with each other have helped us all to understand how individual we are and how we celebrate this uniqueness. The strengths, skills and interests we demonstrate, make us who we are and we know that the adults around us will help us to thrive, by planning for these, whatever our starting point.

As our community continues to develop and grow, we will build upon these strong foundations and plan for the year ahead with excitement and joy together.



RAINBOWS – UNDER TWO YEARS OLD



Children relish in role play and real life experiences and proudly show off skills that they have learnt from the adults around them.

The children were very excited to work together to make the yellow playdough. This gave them the opportunity to learn new skills and practice some more familiar ones.

Talking with the children about what we were doing at each stage helped them to extend their vocabulary and understanding, by repeating names of ingredients, commenting on actions and using descriptive words.

Working together in a small group supported their turn taking skills, and helped to build relationships.

Playdough is always a popular activity and supports children of all ages with so many areas of development.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like a copy of the recipe we use.

SEN SOFT PLAY SESSIONS

The Leys Leisure Centre are offering some SEN Soft Play Sessions for families who might prefer a quieter time to play. If you would like more information please see contact details below –

MORE

Quieter hours
The same great fun, in a quieter setting for those who need a little less noise.

SEN Soft Play Sessions

Monday 3pm to 4.30pm
Thursday 11.30am to 1pm

Over 5 - £7.50
Under 5 - £5
Under 1 - Free

We are pleased to be working with Jigsaw, who provide support for families that have a child with an SEN to offer two SEN Soft Play Sessions. These sessions are perfect for children who prefer a quieter space to scramble, jump and run at their own pace.

We'll be keeping the environment low-noise and sensory friendly but if your child uses ear defenders feel free to bring them along for your little one's extra comfort.

To book, please use the link below or call 0330 109 8773
<https://www.leysleisure.com/leys-soft-play-sessions>

To find out more, please speak to a member of our reception team.

let's do MORE

PARENT SURVEY – SUMMER 2025

As we all know, this year has been a year of change and of welcoming new colleagues, families and children to our community. We would really like to hear about how the year has gone for you and your family. Please could you complete the questionnaire in this link. <https://forms.gle/1YuzuLDSbCJF643n6>

If there is anything you'd like to talk to us about in more detail, please do pop in and see us.

SUMMER SAFETY

The Child Accident Prevention Trust

The Child Accident Prevention Trust also have some great advice for you to share with families including watching out for open windows and balcony doors to prevent falls.

[Summer safety tips: 8 reminders to keep children safe this summer](#)

Also don't forget to check your boundary hedges and fences as ground becomes dry and shrinks creating potential safety risks.

Beat the heat hot weather advice

The government have provided guidance on ideas of how to keep our homes cool.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beat-the-heat-hot-weather-advice/beat-the-heat-keep-cool-at-home-checklist>

YOU MOVE

YouMove offers free and low-cost activities for eligible children and their families, including those on benefits related free school meals or Universal Credit, refugee children, and children supported by early help services in Oxfordshire, enabling residents to continue to stay active and have fun along the way. It has recently been extended to include children under five years old. Please find more details below –

<https://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/new-to-youmove>

LIBRARY SUMMER CHALLENGE

Please find below details of the summer challenge for 2025 – it looks like lots of fun!



Explore nature with a **FREE** children's reading challenge at your local Oxfordshire library!

5 July to 6 September 2025

The 2025 Summer Reading Challenge, **Story Garden**, celebrates adventure, fantasy and the great outdoors.

Tap into a world of imagination through reading and exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature.



Finish the challenge and get your own medal and certificate!

Look out for fantastic new books and activities at your library!

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

How to Use: Read books by Peter Rabbit and 1000s of other books and 1000s of other books and 1000s of other books

READING Summer Reading Challenge

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HAVE A REALLY LOVELY SUMMER EVERYONE!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22nd July – Summer singalong at 1.30pm

22nd July – End of term for Swans children

26th – 30th August – Rainbows and Swans closed for August Holiday

1st & 2nd Sept - INSET (staff training days) Rainbows and Swans closed



Instagram



Facebook

TAPESTRY

Here is a link to various guides that you may find useful in using Tapestry. Please do speak to us if you can't find what you are looking for and we will help.

<https://eyfs.info/forums/topic/47795-tutorials-contents-page-for-relatives/>

SAFETY

FRONT DOOR INTO THE BUILDING and FOYER - 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.

If your child is in our Swans, term-time provision, please could you stand towards the back of the foyer when waiting for your child. This helps us to see who is waiting more easily and the children to find their adults more easily too. Many thanks.

SICKNESS – Please telephone to let us know if your child will not be attending a session by 9.30am, many thanks. Also a gentle reminder that if your child is sick and/or has diarrhoea, please keep them at home for 48 hours after the last bout. This will help us to minimise the spread of tummy bugs, many thanks.

CAR PARK - For your child's safety, when dropping off and collecting your child from Grandpont, please keep them on the paths and not in the car park itself, many thanks.

DOORS - For the safety of all of our children and so that staff are aware of who is in the building, please do not open doors for other visitors, including parents, many thanks.

Rainbows – Please ring the bell next to the main door when you arrive. A member of the team will come and open the door for you.

Swans – Please wait until a member of the team opens the door at 9am and 3pm. They will invite you in to collect your child. Please stand towards the back of the foyer so that the children are able to come out to you.

TIMINGS –

Rainbows – You are able to bring your child any time after 8am. If you think you might be later than 8.30am, please let your child's keyperson know if it is planned and call the office if you're running late in the morning. You are able to collect anytime later in the day, again let your keyperson know if you are planning to collect before 5pm. Please ensure that you collect your child between 5.45pm and 5.55pm and by 6pm.

Swans – You are able to bring your child for a 9am start and 3pm or 3.30pm finish dependent on the sessions your child is attending each day. Please ask your keyperson if you are not sure of pick-up times.

MORE INFORMATION THAT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...

EASY FUNDRAISING

We have had a few people sign up to Easy Fundraising and we can see how much of a difference it will make over time. Please do consider signing up. If you have a regular delivery from the supermarket, using the fundraising page for that alone would really help. We are hoping to use the funds to support us with redeveloping and resourcing our outdoor area.

Please ask if you'd like more details or see the link here – https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/support-a-good-cause/step-1/?char=365917&invite=nkpwax&referral-campaign=c2s&utm_campaign=web-referral

Or use the QR code. To borrow a well-known phrase – Every Little Helps!



HEALTH VISITORS

The Health Visitor has kindly signposted us to some great support that you may find useful. Here is a link to their website which then offer support for specific groups; children 0-1 years, 1-2 years and 3-4 years.

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/hv/>

They also have a support and advice messaging service. Parentline 0-4 years. Text: 07312263081

The Health Visitor advised that if you need advice, you can text this number and one of the Health Visitors will message you back. Please do also speak with your child's keyperson as we may have access to some more information that might be useful too.

HOME START

Home-Start Oxford provides non-judgemental, compassionate, confidential and individual support to families who are going through tough times and have at least one child under the age of five. If this is something that you might find helpful please contact them directly or speak to your child's keyperson.

<https://homestartoxford.org.uk/>

INDOOR ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

The NHS Healthier Families website have put together a list of indoor games and activities for children so they can still get the 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need – even when they cannot get outside.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/indoor-activities-for-kids/>

50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE FIVE

This is an amazing app that offers lots of fun and engaging ideas of things to do in and around Oxford. There is also an app for older children that may be useful if your child has older siblings.

<https://oxfordshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/welcome>

Let us know how you get on and how much fun you've had!

BBC TINY HAPPY PEOPLE

The BBC have created an incredible website with lots of advice, hints and tips to support us all with parenting and supporting our children's development. The website has been created with the support of Early Childhood Experts and contains a wealth of information.

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

THE WILDLIFE TRUST

The Wildlife Trust has some lovely information

https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/where-to-see-autumn-wildlife?utm_source=Engagement+List+2024&utm_campaign=821e860e7c-BWW24+-+Autumn+focus&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_adf3d3b08e-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

All Aboard the Toilet Train

ERIC have launched their new campaign, All Aboard the Toilet Train, which aims to help more children get ready to use the toilets independently. Please do ask your child's keyperson if you would like support with this.

[All aboard the Toilet Train: Get ready for school - ERIC](#)

Oxfordshire Healthier Together

The [Oxfordshire Healthier Together website](#) provides expert advice from local healthcare professionals for parents and carers when their child is unwell.

With a user-friendly traffic light system, parents can find clear information on common childhood illnesses, including what symptoms to look out for, what they should do, and when and where to seek help if required.

The website features a translation tool, a directory of local services to support family health and wellbeing, and advice on whether a child should go to school when they have a virus or infection.

Parents can also download the Healthier Together app if their child is unwell, to get advice at their fingertips. Using a red, amber, green self-assessment of symptoms, parents are directed to the appropriate setting at the right time.

Search for 'Healthier Together' in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)

Strengthening family relationships

All families disagree sometimes. You might have problems that are hard to solve, or things going on that cause you stress. There is a section of the Family Information Service website with information and tools that can help reduce or improve conflict at home. For more information click here: [Family Information Service | Family Support Toolkits](#) (oxfordshire.gov.uk)