

1 December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We have some very exciting news to share with you in this Newsletter...

GRANDPONT FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Louise, Dawn and Kulsum have been working really hard to creatively find ways to support our partnership with you in support of the children. They have created a 'Grandpont Family Partnership'. They have already organised some information sharing coffee mornings once a month where you are all very welcome to come along. It is a great opportunity to chat with the staff and with each other and share support, hints and tips for your children. The first coffee morning will be on Wednesday at 9.30am, please come along if you're free – they'd love to see you...and promise to have biscuits too!

Wednesday 3rd December

Wednesday 14th January

Wednesday 11th February

Wednesday 18th March

NEW HOT LUNCH PROVIDER FROM JANUARY 2026

As many of you know, we have been researching a new provider for hot lunches for our children. Unfortunately, our current provider was not able to extend their lunch offer to include weeks outside of term-time – something that we felt was important to support our families.

We are really pleased to let you know that from January we will be working with a new provider – Nursery Kitchen. This company work specifically with nurseries to provide food that is delicious and nutritious for our children. They visited in November to check that we have everything we need to move to them and to do a taste testing session for the staff team. Happily, we have what we need and importantly, the whole team agreed that the food is delicious!

Please see separate emails for more details over the next few weeks and their website for more information - <https://nurserykitchen.co.uk/for-awesome-parents/>

GRANDPONT NURSERY SCHOOL AND CHILDCARE WEBSITE

We have been working behind the scenes with our website provider to develop a new site that is more user friendly for our families.

Within the website there are lots of new sources of information. We have been developing our curriculum over the last few months and our new curriculum is on the website too. You will find lots of information about how we support the development of our children in all areas of their learning. Also links to sites that you might find helpful too.

If there is anything not included that you feel would be helpful to you or to potential new families, please do let us know.

The site is live, let us know what you think! <https://www.grandpontnurseryschool.co.uk/>

Become a Parent Governor at Grandpont – Your Voice Can Help Shape Our School's Future

We're looking for new parent governors to join the Governing Board at Grandpont Nursery & Childcare School. Being a governor is an incredibly rewarding way to support Sarah, our Headteacher and the whole Grandpont team, helping us provide the very best start for every child.

Governors attend one early-evening meeting every half term (6–8pm) and make occasional visits to the school during the working day. You don't need specialist knowledge, just an interest in how the school runs and a willingness to ask questions, share ideas and work as part of a team. It's a role that genuinely makes a difference: the work of the board over the last two years has helped nearly *double* the number of places available for families at Grandpont.

As a governor, you'll be involved in the conversations that shape the school's development. Recent meetings have covered everything from staffing and pupil numbers, Forest School development and curriculum planning, to SEND provision, safeguarding, health and safety and setting the school's budget.

We also look closely at how the school ensures children are "school ready", review parent survey feedback and work with Sarah to support the school's priorities and long-term planning.

It's a practical and impactful role that helps ensure Grandpont remains a nurturing, inclusive, and exciting place for children to grow.

If you're interested or would like more information or have any questions about being a governor, please contact me at John.palmer@grandpontnurseryschool.co.uk or Sarah head@grandpontnurseryschool.co.uk

CHILDREN AGE THREE OR FOUR – APPLICATION FOR A SCHOOL PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER

If your child was born on or between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 you need to apply for a primary school place before 15 January. There are details for both of our local schools in the foyer. Please also speak with Louise, Kulsum or Dawn if you'd like help with the application.



<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications>

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/>

RAINBOWS – UNDER TWO YEARS OLD



We have been busy using our senses and our bodies to explore our space and our resources. It's lovely to see our new children settling in so well...and always good to catch up with friends too!



SWANS AND RAINBOWS OVER TWO YEARS OLD



So much creativity, concentration and engagement in one small area. It's wonderful to observe how the children use the space in different ways.



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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Grandpont Family Partnership Coffee Mornings – 9.30am

Wednesday 3rd December

Wednesday 14th January

Wednesday 11th February

Wednesday 18th March

Christmas sing-along – Friday 19th December at 1pm

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.



Grandpont Family Partnership

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our family partnership. We can offer help with signposting to information, advice and support for those moments in family life where we all may need a helping hand.

In addition to this, we would also like to invite you to a safe, welcoming space where those caring for young children can get together, seek support and establish local networks.

If you would like more information please pop into nursery and have a chat with Louise, Kulsum or Dawn.

Please see overleaf for upcoming dates for parent/carer coffee mornings.



Family Information sharing Coffee Mornings

Come along to one of our coffee mornings and get together with other parents.

We will also be sharing information around children's development that you may find helpful, such as sleeping, speech and language, play, diet, supporting children's feelings and emotions.

Upcoming dates:

Wednesday 3rd December at 9.30
Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 9.30
Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 9.30
Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 9.30

Festive Fundraising
for MAP
MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

**Bring friends & family, all welcome!
Shop small. Give big. Feel festive.**

6–8pm
Saturday 6th December
Kennington Village Hall, OX1 5PG

Artisanal Jewellery | Moroccan skincare |
Beautiful pottery | Cakes & Bakes | Delicious Food
Natural Soaps | Festive Gifts & Decorations |
Henna & Facepainting | Hand Crafted Gifts

Wreath-making £45 per person

Pre-booking essential - contact
fran.altamimi@gmail.com

Includes all materials & a glass of mulled wine (non-alcoholic option available)

DIDCOT
RAILWAY CENTRE

Steam Into Christmas



Enjoy unlimited train rides and help Santa find his missing reindeer!
Find each of Santa's lost reindeer, culminating in a visit to Santa's workshop to meet Santa.

BOOK NOW - 01235 817200
www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk



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.