

March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you are enjoying the lighter evenings and signs of spring. Our children have been having a wonderful time exploring the outdoors, finding signs of the changing of season and new and inventive ways of imagining stories.

It has been lovely to see the different fascinations that the children currently have and to see them playing, learning and working together in a variety of ways. So many different ways of exploring the world with all of our senses.

#### GRANDPONT FAMILY PARTNERSHIP – UNVEILING AND CELEBRATION OF OUR REFURBISHED ROOMS

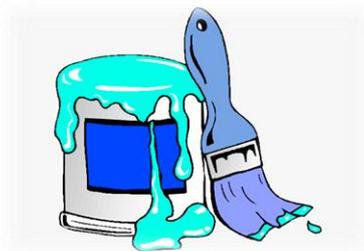
Our next Family Partnership coffee morning is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am. Do come and join us for a nice warm cuppa, a biscuit and a chat. This time we will also have some of the foods from Nursery Kitchen available for you to taste.

We are also really excited to be able to share with you our newly decorated rooms. Our coffee morning will be in the space that our children who are under two years old will be moving to in the next few weeks.

We will also be joined by Jacenta, our very experienced warm and friendly speech and language therapist who will be able to chat with you about babies and children's development in language including speech sounds, when to expect words and sentences and children who are learning more than one language.

Please do ask Louise, Dawn or Kulsum for more details. We would love to see you there.

*New dates to follow soon...*

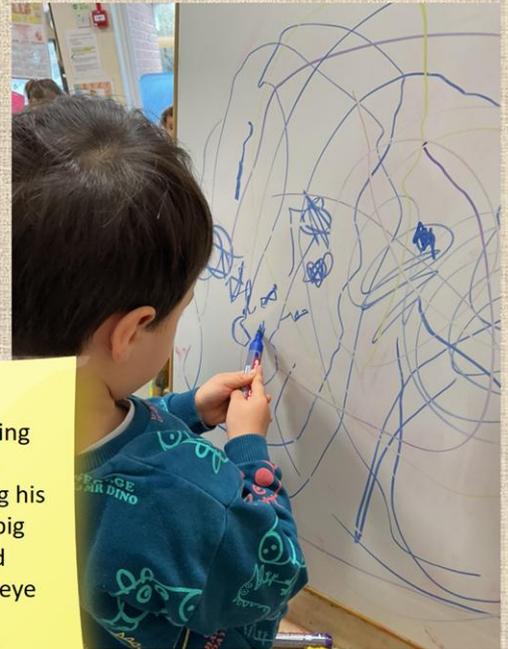


#### PARENT MEETINGS

If you've not already had a chance to book a time with your child's keyperson for a chat about your child, their interests, development and how we can work together to nurture and support them to thrive please do speak to them when you drop your child off or pick them up.



Sharing some time together with some favourite stories.



a "big blue dragon" using bold strokes while explaining his imaginations "making big eyes" and "big tail" and developing good hand eye control. He remained engaged and appeared proud of his creation.



## WORLD BOOK DAY AND THE WONDER OF STORY

Storytelling is a powerful and inspiring experience that we can transfer into our independent play and social interactions. Taking part in Tales Tool kit sessions helps us to begin to understand how stories are sequenced. We are excited to imagine and show curiosity for what could be hiding inside each bag. What might be inside the Character, Setting, Problem and Solution bag? We can create our own stories following this sequence. We could even switch the objects around next time, so the problem becomes a solution.

This new vocabulary that we have learnt is also so useful when we are imaginatively playing with our friends. Here is an example from this week:

**I: "Oh no, the train and the carriages got stuck in the sand". Look A, it's stuck." "We have a problem."**

**D: "It's a problem. Train stuck in the sand."**

**I: "I need a solution."**

**Louise: "I wonder what the solution could be?"**

**I: "Have you got a solution D?"**

**D: "Nope. no solution."**

**Louise: "Maybe we could think of a solution together."**

**I: "It's a problem. I am going to dig it out."**

**Louise: "Shall we try together? D, do you think that's a solution?"**

**D: "Dig it out."**

**Louise: "Let's try, what happened?"**

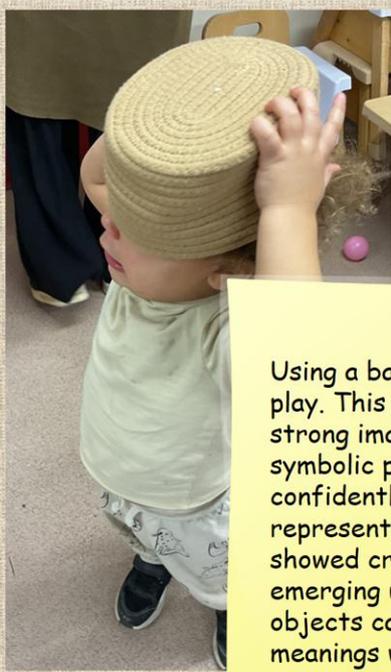
**I: "They all out!"**

**Louise: "Oh yes, now do you have a solution?"**

**D: "Yes, me too!"**



The children were looking for the tiger in the woods, when asked what the tiger looked like, they all added a slightly different description, so the tiger was Orange, yellow, spotty, big and has a baby, and they live in the woods together.



Using a basket as a hat during play. This demonstrated strong imaginative and symbolic play, as he confidently used an object to represent something else. He showed creativity and an emerging understanding that objects can be reassigned new meanings within his play.

## NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

For World Book Week we are celebrating the National Year of Reading. Our children have been having lots of fun enjoying stories through books and through Tales Toolkit where they create the most wonderful stories of their own.

Here is some great information from the National Year of Reading website; Children come alive when they're exploring the things they're passionate about. From superheroes and football to cooking, dancing and dinosaurs – every word counts.

The National Year of Reading 2026 is your chance to help your child discover new worlds, grow confidence and build a lifelong love of reading – all through the everyday moments you already share.

For more information please see the parent page on the National Year of Reading website – <https://goallin.org.uk/get-involved/families/>

Reading stories in books isn't always easy. Here is a fantastic short video created by Michael Rosen with some hints and tips - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvV23xoZRkI>

## BEST START IN LIFE STRATEGY

Some more developments from the Best Start in Life Strategy –

Parent Newsletter - <https://beststartinlife.gov.uk/the-parent-newsletter/>

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/>

## NURSERY KITCHEN - Understanding and Managing Food Refusal - A parent focused webinar

Please see below for a webinar for parents that may be useful...

**Understanding & Managing Food Refusal**

Join our **free parent webinar** with Catherine Lippe, Head of Nutrition and Policy at Nursery Kitchen. Learn why children refuse food, when to be concerned and practical, evidence based ways to support positive mealtimes.

**Secure your place, today**

Leave with a better understanding of your child's eating behaviours and have the confidence to make mealtimes stress-free, so you can help your child enjoy coming to the table and taking part in mealtimes.

**Join us on 16th April at 7:30pm**

### Link to webinar:

[https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/89e88c6f-d27d-41f5-8392-c92e68a9ed45@d90effc1-e1a9-429b-8dfe-279c9c165732?utm\\_medium=email&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-\\_8azft0upuEd0gf8nZqs\\_kEoMIHgmhbmgmt08HWEcxOuKIGVHsz8QU3cCJZ7qzhYKq1jI9oPLYxxLaA15nycLtnO2xROvqPec4FIC3A9Zu\\_prA9gl4&\\_hsmi=407080676&utm\\_content=407080676&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/89e88c6f-d27d-41f5-8392-c92e68a9ed45@d90effc1-e1a9-429b-8dfe-279c9c165732?utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_8azft0upuEd0gf8nZqs_kEoMIHgmhbmgmt08HWEcxOuKIGVHsz8QU3cCJZ7qzhYKq1jI9oPLYxxLaA15nycLtnO2xROvqPec4FIC3A9Zu_prA9gl4&_hsmi=407080676&utm_content=407080676&utm_source=hs_email)

### SOAP

**50 YEARS OF PLAY**

**WILL YOU HELP BUILD THE NEXT 50?**

We are looking for a new generation of local residents to join our committee!

**SOAP'S FUTURE**

South Oxford Adventure Playground (SOAP) is an inclusive community space hosting youth clubs, holiday play schemes and family days.

**Our current Chair is standing down in July and we are looking for a new generation of local residents to join our committee.**

**SOAP AGM - ALL WELCOME! WEDNESDAY 9 JULY @ 7pm**

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?**

Contact Naomi Waite, the current chair to discuss the roles and find out more:

✉ [naomi.waite@soapoxford.org](mailto:naomi.waite@soapoxford.org)  
☎ 07425 838 321  
🌐 [www.soapoxford.org](http://www.soapoxford.org)

**VOLUNTEERS**

**A New Chair:** Someone to lead the vision and help shape the future with an experienced committee by their side.

**Committee Members:** Local people to help manage our after-school and holiday provision.

**Flexible volunteering:** marketing, staffing events, grounds maintenance and more!

**Trustees:** Responsible but not involved day to day.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Grandpont Family Partnership Coffee Mornings – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 9.30am**

**Please also see our curriculum plans for more details of what we are planning for this term. Please see our website for lots more information about our curriculum.**

## **ADDITIONAL USEFUL INFORMATION**

### **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.**

### **BREAKFAST SESSION FOR SWANS**

There are a few remaining spaces in our breakfast sessions for children in our Swans provision. Speak to Aga if you'd like to book a space. 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.