

9 January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

We do hope that you all had a lovely break and wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

It seems that we were very lucky and the storm last night has passed us by. If there is ever the potential that we need to consider closing the Nursery due to adverse weather conditions, we give you as much notice as we possibly can and communicate through email and Tapestry.

Even though we have had very little snowfall here in the end, we have made the best of it and had so much enjoyment investigating and developing our ideas and understanding of snow and ice...



GRANDPONT FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Our next Family Partnership coffee morning is next Wednesday at 9.30am. Do come and join us for a nice warm cuppa, a biscuit and a chat.

We will be joined by the Health Visiting Team who will be on hand to share information and answer questions around babies and children's development that you may find helpful, such as sleeping, speech and language, play, diet, supporting children's feelings and emotions.

We will also be joined by Jacenta, a 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.

Wednesday 14th January

Wednesday 11th February

Wednesday 18th March

NEW HOT LUNCH PROVIDER FROM 12 JANUARY 2026

More exciting news regarding our new catering provider! On Monday during the INSET, Nursery Kitchen colleagues came to work with the team to explain about their ethos and how the food is sourced, planned and provided. The team were all really inspired and enthusiastic to begin our collaboration with Nursery Kitchen. There are also webinars for parents that share really helpful information about how to make eating a positive and nurturing learning experience for our children. We will share them with you over the coming months.

We also welcomed Koli, our new catering assistant who is already making a big contribution in ensuring we are ready for a great start on Monday.

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/>

News from OCC - Help Oxfordshire residents stay warm and well this winter

With the recent cold snap, it's more important than ever that people can keep their homes warm and energy costs manageable. We've been awarded additional government funding to help low-income households make their homes more energy efficient through the [Warm Homes Local Grant](#).

This scheme provides fully funded upgrades such as insulation, solar panels, and heat pumps for eligible homeowners and private tenants.

Oxfordshire residents could qualify if:

- Their household income is under £36,000, OR
- They receive means-tested benefits, AND
- Their home has an EPC rating of D, E, F or G

Please note: Privately rented properties only qualify with an EPC of D or E rating unless landlords have the relevant exemptions in place. For more information please see link below -

https://www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk/?utm_source=Communications+team+%E2%80%93+stakeholders&utm_campaign=7b7d5f21ae-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2026_01_06_03_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-7b7d5f21ae-451574453

LOCAL COURSES STARTING IN JANUARY

Please see below details of courses that you might be interested in that are starting over the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in specific course, please let Louise, Kulsum and Dawn know as they will research what is available locally and online for you.



FOR PARENTS & CARERS

HEALTHY FAMILIES: RIGHT FROM THE START

FREE 8-SESSION PROGRAMME

Helping families give their little ones the best start in life.

A unique programme supporting parents and carers of children aged 0-3 to:

- Build skills to support your parenting journey with confidence.
- Discover simple fun ways to keep your little ones active.
- Explore healthy meals and snacks that work for the whole family.
- Create family routines that support a balanced, happy lifestyle.
- Strengthen family bonds and make everyday moments special - together.

Programme details:

When:
Starting Friday 23rd January 2026 for 8 weekly sessions (with a break during the half-term holidays) 10am-12:30pm weekly

Where:
Bicester East Community Centre, Keble Road, Bicester, OX26 4TP

Free crèche spaces available!

REGISTER FOR OUR PROGRAMME TODAY



Contact information:

To book your place or find out more, scan the QR code above or call us on 03332 208952, we're happy to help.

In partnership with:



You'll also receive a FREE toolkit packed with resources to help you along the way.

HENRY - info@henry.org.uk - www.henry.org.uk - Charity number 1332581 - Company number 6952404 - Copyright © HENRY 2024. All rights reserved.

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Antenatal Group

- Get to know other expectant parents
- Get to know your baby now
- Discover how to strengthen your bond
- Consider how life will change
- Find out about local support
- Understand and support early brain development

FREE



Venues across Oxford
Contact us to sign up, classes begin every 5 weeks
email: families@people.org.uk



peep



TALK

- Do you have a child aged 2-4 and you are concerned about their speech, language or communication development?
- Join our 8 week group, we share research based activities and ideas that support language development in a fun and supportive environment.

FREE



Venues across Oxford
Contact us to sign up, courses every term.
email: families@people.org.uk



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

The deadline for applying for a school reception place is next week. If you have not already done so, please apply for a place for your child if they are eligible. 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.



Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, you need to apply for a primary school place now. You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is 15 January 2025.

Apply online at
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
- it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

Deadline for applications is 15 January 2025

For help and information:
Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Tel: 0345 241 2497

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

<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/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Grandpont Family Partnership Coffee Mornings – 9.30am

Wednesday 14th January

Wednesday 11th February

Wednesday 18th March

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.

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

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.