



## May Newsletter, 2019

Dear Families,

This is a very short half term, which is whizzing by!

Welcome to all our new families who have started at Grandpont this term. The children are all settling in really well. Please remember that we are closed for half term on the w/b 27th May and the nursery schools reopens on Tuesday 4th June. We have an inset day on the 3rd June (but St Ebbes doesn't). Please ensure you have made a holiday club booking if you need it.

***Lisa Fern***

Headteacher

### For Information

**Car and Bike Parking-** I am having endless conversations with staff and families about the parking situation outside the front of Grandpont. **Please do not** pull off of the road and park in front of the gates at drop off and collection times. This area needs to be kept clear and safe for children walking into nursery and is the emergency access for the railway, SOAP and the nursery. If you are asked to move your vehicle this is because staff are supporting this request and a respectful response is required.

Please do not walk through the vehicle gates at any point as vehicles may be moving in this area.

If you are coming to nursery on a bike, please also be considerate of people who are walking in. The paths are not wide. Please walk bikes into the nursery grounds or use the bike racks opposite the gates.

Please ensure that when transporting your children in a vehicle they must be in an appropriate car seat and strapped in.

**All of these requests are for the safety of our children and families and no one would want to be affected by any unnecessary accidents.**

**The School Lunch Company** -will start cooking our meals on Tuesday 4th June. Please pick up a menu from Nursery or you can find it here;

[https://www.grandpontnurseryschool.co.uk/website/lunch\\_menus/408076](https://www.grandpontnurseryschool.co.uk/website/lunch_menus/408076)

We are anticipating that the menu meets all of the nutritional requirements of our children. However, if your child has an allergy or is unable to eat any of the meals for religious purposes, please ensure you have let your child's key person know.

### **Half term reminder and holiday club bookings-**

- Half term week is the week beginning 27th May and the nursery school will reopen on Tuesday 4th June.
- Holiday club will run during the break but places are filling up (Some sessions are already full) so please get any bookings in quickly. Blossom Room children and those attending the holiday club will need a packed lunch this week.
- The nursery school will be closed on Monday 3rd June. This is an INSET day for the nursery School. A holiday club booking may be made. ALL children in holiday club and blossom room will need a packed lunch on this day.

### **Some other Dates-**

- **Monday 10th June-** Our Living Eggs arrive! And return to the farm on Friday 21st June.
- **Tuesday 18th-Friday 21st June-** Grandpont Book Fair. The travelling Book Fair will be here for you to purchase books from. This is an opportunity for you to buy some recent and much loved children's books. The more we sell the more commission we get to buy books for nursery!
- **Wednesday 3rd July-** A visit to us from Farmer Gows! More information to follow soon.
- **Friday 19th July-** Grandpont 70th Birthday celebration More information to follow soon.

**Parent meetings-** We will be holding parent meetings in the mornings again next half term, where we will be keen to talk with you about the progress your children have made and their interests and any school transition issues you may wish to discuss. We are just finalising these dates and hope to have them with you before the end of next week.

**Academic Research-** I (Lisa) am currently undergoing an MA in Early Childhood and as part of my work I am carrying out a small research project looking at parent and practitioners perceptions of practice when working with 2 year olds. Over the next week I will be sending out a questionnaire to all Blossom Room staff and parents. All of your responses will be highly appreciated.

We are also welcoming Arianne Haneine Stern who is completing an MSc at Oxford University, into nursery next week. Arianne is carrying out an interesting piece of research related to art and storytelling. She is primarily going to be working with Jennifer, Teresa and Lucy B's key groups but please read the attached letter as she may also engage some other children in this work. If you do not want your children to be involved then please let us know and we will honour your request.

### **Friends of Grandpont (FOG)**

**70 year Celebration of Grandpont-** Grandpont Maintained Nursery School opened its doors for the first time 70 years ago in 1949. We will be having a special celebration day on Friday 19th July. This will include a 1940's lunch, cooked by The School Lunch

Company and in the afternoon hope to hold some games and afternoon tea in the nursery garden. We may even have some live music playing too.

If you can offer some time to help organise this event and/or help out on the day then please email Lisa at [head.1010@grandpont-nur.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:head.1010@grandpont-nur.oxon.sch.uk)

### **Community News**

**SOFR-** Will be holding their annual Triathlon event again in June. Please see the Facebook page for more information.

### **Research consent letter for the Nursery school;**

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Dear Families,

#### **The influence of open-ended art activities in children's narrative and story-telling in comparison to the narrative production of a closed art experience**

My name is Arianne Haneine Stern. I am studying for an MSc degree in Child Development at the Department of Education, University of Oxford. I am writing to kindly invite you to take part in a research study investigating the impact of open-ended art activities on children's narrative in comparison to the narrative production of a closed-art experience.

The open-ended art experience is designed for pre-school aged children to freely explore their creativity and then produce a story about their drawing. The closed-ended art experience aims to be an adult-led art experience in which children fill in an image out of a colour book and then produce a story. The purpose of this exercise is to analyse which of the two situations enables children to produce more narrative in their storytelling by analysing the number of utterances, complexity of language, number of verbs, adjectives and whether their story has a beginning, middle and an end. Previous research findings, such as that of Vivianne Payley, have found that open-ended play and storytelling enhances children's complexity of language/speech production.

The study is going to last 10 weeks. I kindly ask you that if you wish to opt-out your child from the study to let your child's key person or headteacher know as soon as possible. Once, the school has a numbered list of remaining children; the information that will be provided to the researcher will be list with a pseudonyms. This is because the researcher's interest is not in the individual children but in the group as a whole.

I will ensure that all information will be strictly confidential. The children's data will only be used for research purposes. When the study is complete, I will send a report of the study's findings to you and any parents who wish to receive it.

This research study has been approved by the University of Oxford Ethics Committee and will be carried out by myself under the supervision of my supervisor, Professor Iram Siraj.

I have obtained the required clearance to work with children in schools (DBS) and this research will adhere to the school guidelines of safeguarding.

I hope that you will take part in the research. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [arianne.haneinestern@stcatz.ox.ac.uk](mailto:arianne.haneinestern@stcatz.ox.ac.uk), or my supervisor Professor Iram Siraj at [iram.siraj@education.ox.ac.uk](mailto:iram.siraj@education.ox.ac.uk).

Thank you very for your time and consideration. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Arianne Haneine Stern

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