

June 27th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so very much for coming along and helping us to celebrate our 30th Anniversary of being in this building. We were so lucky with the weather and even luckier that so many of you took the time to join us.

We felt honoured that our Mayor Louise Upton was able to join us and it was good to hear that she feels strongly about the importance of the early years and children's development. She very kindly cut the amazing cake that Stella baked and decorated, we are sure that you all agree it was a stunning design and delicious too.

We also had some more very special guests. Jill McCleery, who played a key role in ensuring that the move of the Nursery from the Pegasus Grange site was a success, supporting with the development of the building and officially opening it 30 years ago joined us with her family. It was so lovely that she was able to join us and to know how much she continues to care about Grandpont Nursery School and Childcare. Some of the residents of Pegasus Grange also joined us, they all had family connections with the Nursery and spoke warmly of the time that their children and grandchildren attended. Very importantly we had lots of you with us too!



As you all know, we are busily raising funds to help develop the outdoor environment. 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



These very warm and sunny days in June have sparked a deeper wonder for us, as we explore water. We are discovering the endless possibilities, as we play and investigate water. Our enjoyment of splashing, pouring, filling, emptying can be repeated so very many times as we watch closely the effects of our actions. We are developing our mathematical understanding, noticing when a container is full or empty. **Let's transport water around the garden using containers!** As we use our whole bodies to carry and travel with the water, we are experiencing what heavy and light feels like.

Some of us have learnt a new word this week as we watched water disappear. **"Where did it go?" 'It Evaporated.'** We might test our own ideas and use the new vocabulary we have learnt. We are also noticing the effects of water on our skin. it may feel cold or warm, encouraging us to explore temperature. **Did you know that ice is water that is frozen?** This warm sun also shows us that ice melts too. That's a lot of change!

Playing with water offers us experiences that feel sensory, helping us to feel calm and happy. This is so good for our sense of wellbeing.

During our imaginative play, creativity is in abundance as we design and build boats that might float or sink. **"I wonder why that happens...?"** How are we going to cross the river? Maybe we need to create a bridge together or stepping stones?

We are learning that it is so important for us to drink lots of water during the day, especially during these warm days. We have been talking about what helps our bodies stay healthy. We are making sure the wildlife in our garden stays healthy too, by watering our plants and leaving water for creatures who may need it, when the weather is so dry. We will continue our motivations to discover more about water through our play, and how it is also essential for our lives. This means we how we care for our community and our world together.

Let's Splash!



RAINBOWS – UNDER TWO YEARS OLD



8 of 24 - Clipboard
Item collected.

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.



EBBE'S FEST

St Ebbe's have their 'Ebbe's Fest' on Saturday 5th July from 12pm to 4pm. They have extended an invite to all of our families and we will be there with a stall so you can come and say hello to us too.

EBBE'S FEST 25



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!

The Library
Oxfordshire



Story Garden

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

Story Garden: Illustrations by David Almond and © The Reading Agency 2025 | Story Garden logo artwork © The Reading Agency 2025



Grandpont
Nursery School & Childcare

Belonging to our Community
Rainbows over 2's and Swans: Summer term 2025

Welcome to the Summer term. This term we will continue to be responsive to the children's interests through our observations and interactions, noticing and planning to encourage further learning, whilst embedding knowledge and understanding. We will create new and inspiring ideas, experiences and skills for the children to enjoy and evoke deep curiosity.

During this term, we will develop our curiosity and understanding of growth, pattern and change through practical and interactive experiences.

This term we will be sharing and celebrating:

- April 22nd Earth Day
- May 5th - May Day
- May 8th - Being thankful
- June 15th - Fathers Day
- June 18th - 30th Grandpont Celebrations

Our Key values that we will be looking more deeply at are Compassion, Empathy and Self Esteem.

The Core Stories that we will be focusing on this term will include:

- Jack and The Beanstalk
- Walking Through the Jungle
- Handa's Surprise
- Not A Box/Stick/City
- The Hungry Caterpillar

We have many exciting opportunities for the children to experience during the term:

- Forest School
- Mindfulness
- Gardening and growing vegetables to cook and eat.
- Caterpillars
- Story-telling with Tales Toolkit
- Bikeability
- Visits around the local community.



SWANS AFTERNOON SESSIONS

We are so lucky to have welcomed children that are now attending our afternoon session from 12.30-3.30. When collecting your child at 3.30, a staff member will open the front door for all the children to leave together.

Have a really lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you all again next week.

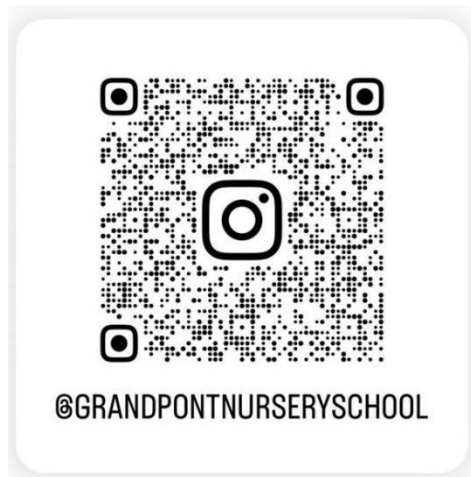
Sarah & the Grandpont Team

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)