

May 9th 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Here we are already in the month of May.

May Day was a gloriously sunny day filled with traditional country music and dancing in the garden, with homemade ribbons and garlands.

Welcome!

We are continuing to welcome new families to our Grandpont family and community and have been delighted to say 'hello!' to new friends. We are excited for the weeks ahead getting to know each other, developing relationships and sharing experiences.

Children that have started with us in the last few weeks are settling into their new nursery environment, enjoying their first explorations and starting to feel comfortable with their special grown-ups. It is lovely to see how quickly the new children are settling, helped by their friends.



EXPERIENCES AND LEARNING

There will be many exciting opportunities and experiences for the children to be involved and inspired by as we head into summer. Some of these are shown below and can also be found on our website.



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.



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

NOT-A-BOX CITY



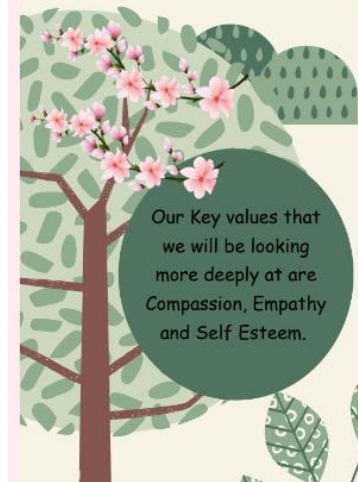
During this term, we will develop our curiosity and understanding of growth, pattern and change through practical and interactive experiences.



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

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.

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



RAINBOWS UNDER TWO'S



The children in the Under 2's have been having a fantastic time exploring and investigating inside and outside in the sunshine!

Sometimes sharing the outdoor space with the Over 2's gives opportunities for role modelling, turn taking and practicing our caring skills.

There has been lots of crawling, balancing, scooting, rolling and digging.

We just need a bit more practice at keeping our sun hats on!!

May 8th - VE Day

Children and adults were very welcome to come to nursery dressed in red, white and blue. We talked about being



thankful to people who help us and showing kindness to each other.

We decorated biscuits in red, white and blue and created our own personal flags using red, white and blue paints and cotton buds to paint with. We listened to some of the music from the era and had a lot of fun doing some not so new, new dance moves!

RAINBOWS AND SWANS OVER TWO'S.

Our learning journey all about planting and nurturing seeds has truly begun. We are showing excitement at watching nature in action at first hand. We are taking on a little responsibility for learning about and caring for plants. Our confidence and self-esteem is growing as we have ownership of our very own plant, however small.

We are starting to learn and understand about the importance of light, water and temperature to help our seeds grow. It is so much fun gardening with our friends, caring for living things and finding wonder in how nature changes over time. Throughout the Spring and Summer we will be continuing to experience gardening vegetables, fruit and flowers.



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.

GRANDPONT GROWN UP BOOK SWAP

Please feel free to take a book from the shelf in the Reception area to read and bring a book in that you've enjoyed for someone else to read too. We have some avid readers amongst the staff team and so we will all be bringing and borrowing books too.

FOOD LARDER

It's so lovely to see that our mini food larder is popular and to see the items being used. Thank you for supporting this initiative. As you know, we are receiving regular weekly deliveries and so please do continue to take anything you would like.

For more details about Oxford Food Hub please see their website - <https://oxfordfoodhub.org/>

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT – 18TH JUNE 2025

As many of you will know, Grandpont Nursery School is very well established. The first Nursery was on the site of Pegasus Grange and moved across to our purpose built Nursery building in 1995. We have now been in this building for 30 years! What is really lovely is that many of the staff have seen the changes and improvements over the years, some of us even attended the nursery as children!

We are planning to celebrate this special anniversary on Wednesday 18th June from 3.30pm with a big 'Par-tea'! We are planning to invite all of our families along for a cream tea with music and time to chat. Please make a note in your diaries to join us to celebrate. If you would like to be involved in the planning and preparations we would love some help so please do let us know.

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

Sarah & the Grandpont Team



*Grandpont 30th Birthday
Celebration*

Let's

Par-tea

Wednesday 18th June 2025

3.30 PM Onwards

at

*Grandpont Nursery School &
childcare*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26th May – Bank holiday for Rainbows and Swans children

26th – 30th May – Half term for Swans children

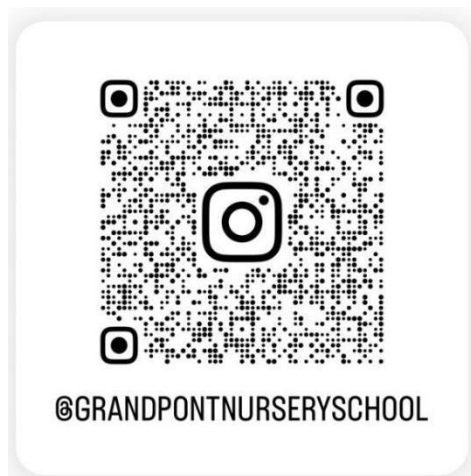
2nd June – INSET (staff training day) Rainbows and Swans closed

18th June - 30th Anniversary Grandpont Nursery Celebration

22nd July – End of term for Swans children

26th – 30th August – Rainbows 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=nkpwx&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 \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)