

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I begin this November Newsletter by introducing myself as Grace Slater – Interim Headteacher whilst Lisa Fern is unwell - and to say what a pleasure it has been to begin working with you at Grandpont. You have made me so very welcome and it is a privilege to be working within such a vibrant and welcoming community.

I am on site every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and have already enjoyed meeting many of you as you bring your children into school in the morning. If there is anything you would like to discuss at greater length than the drop off time allows for, or if you would just like to meet with me, please contact the school office, so we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

As you will be aware, the Ofsted Inspection Report of the Childcare Centre (the Nursery School will have a separate Ofsted Inspection in due course) which took place at the end of September was published last Friday. I hope you have received a copy via MailChimp, but please let the office know if you haven't, and would like to. The governors' letter which accompanied the report explains the actions the report required us put in place, how these are being actioned, and also where actions have already been completed.

Communication

We would like to clarify and strengthen the ways in which we communicate with you about your child. I'm very aware that the restrictions of the pandemic, where you have not been able to come into the building, have made things trickier too.

- **Childcare Centre**

For those of you with children in the Childcare Centre a daily 'My Day' slip has been set up. This allows staff to let you know what has happened in your child's day, and I know that many of you have already found these very helpful.

Childcare staff are very happy to talk with you at drop off and pick up times but, should you want to have a more in depth conversation with your child's key person, or with myself, please contact the office so we can arrange a phone call or meeting as soon as possible.





- **Nursery**

In the Nursery, staff are very happy to speak with you informally at drop off and pick up time. As this is trickier for those of you with children attending After School or Breakfast Club, staff will look to touch base with you on a regular basis at alternative times to talk with you about your child.

Separately, if you would you like to have a more in depth discussion with your child's key person, or with myself, please contact the office to arrange a phone call or meeting. We will ensure that this takes place as soon as is practical.

Your child's key person is also arranging to meet with you during this term to talk with you about your child. We are describing these as 'Termly Learning Conversations' (TLC) meetings.

A fortnightly Nursery newsletter has been set up, and you should have received the first of these already – please let the office know if this hasn't happened.

We are also looking to introduce an online portal, across both Nursery and Childcare which would enable us to share significant moments of your child's day with you, and allow you to share with us special achievements your child has accomplished at home. We are currently trialling this, and I will let you know once we have more details.

First Aid

We have amended our First Aid reporting procedure so that, should your child have an accident during their time with us, the information we share with you when you pick up your child will also include an explanation of *how* the incident happened.

Potty / Toilet Training

Please speak with staff about any issues with potty or toilet training for your child, and let us know what you are doing at home too, so we can support your child in the same way at Grandpont. Staff are able to give children additional support during this stage of their development, please let us know if this would be helpful.

Save the Date!

- We plan to celebrate 'Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of 'Save the Children' on Friday 10 December. If preferred, clothes in Christmas colours, or a piece of tinsel instead of a jumper, would be excellent too.
- We are looking forward to inviting you into Grandpont for a time of Christmas singing with the children, and are provisionally looking at the afternoon of Wednesday 15 December. More details to follow.

**Term Dates**

- Term finishes for the Nursery children on Friday 17 December and restarts on Wednesday 5 January.
- For children in Childcare the last day of term is Thursday 23 December and the Centre re-opens on Wednesday 5 January.

May I close with my very best wishes to you all.

Grace

Grace Slater
Interim Headteacher