

January 2022

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year break. The children have come back ready to play and explore and telling us lots about their exciting Christmas's. We hope you like our new communication board by the front door. We will be writing different things on here daily about what the children have been learning and also any important messages.

We are learning in Butterflies ...

This term our theme is transport. We will be exploring all different types of vehicles and how they move.

The children will explore cars, boats, trains, diggers and aeroplanes, to name but a few.

If you have any photographs of your child in/on different modes of transport then please could you send them in to us. We would love to share them with the children.

We will also be going out and about to see different vehicles with the local area.

Important Dates

- Parent and Key Person evenings – 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 9th February (more info below)
- Friday 15th – 22nd April – Easter break, nursery closed.
- Monday 2nd May – bank holiday, nursery closed.
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party – Wednesday 1st June

We are learning in Bumble Bees

This term we are looking at Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. We will focus on a different story each week. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year. 2022 is the year of the tiger.

- Nursery Rhyme Week - 17th January
- Billy Goats Gruff Week - 24th January
- Chinese New Year - 31st January
- Goldilocks and the 3 bears Week – 7th February
- 3 Little Pigs Week – 14th February
- Gingerbread Man Week – 21st February
- Number Nursery Rhymes Week – 28th February

We will be doing lots of activities based around these stories to help the children develop in all areas, but especially literacy and communication and language.

Lunch Boxes

Please can we remind all parents that we encourage healthy lunch boxes for all children. The Change4life campaign has some great ideas on their website at [Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families)

We would also like to remind parents that we are a nut-free setting and do not encourage any nut-products in children's lunch boxes, including peanut butter.

We would also ask that you do not put humous in lunch boxes as we have a child with an allergy to this and sesame seeds in general.

Please can you make sure your child is collected on time, either 12:45pm, 3:45pm or 5:30pm. If you are going to be late please can you ring to let us know. We can charge a late fee for anyone who is continually late, as set out in our policies.

Please could you also chop grapes, tomatoes, and anything round into **quarters**. We have to follow very strict guidance on choking hazards and would appreciate your support on this.

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Staff Changes

We are very sad to have said good-bye to Fiona last week. Fiona has very much been an important part of our team while doing her apprenticeship with us. She is off to take on a new role at the JR Hospital and we wish her lots of luck with this.

We have recently had Lauren join our team. Lauren is based in the Bumble Bees room and has experience of working in day nursery settings. We welcome Lauren to the Small Steps team.

We do still have a space for another member of staff to join our team and currently have an advert on our Facebook page. If you know anyone who might be interested then please pass this on.

Parent and Key Person Evening

We will be holding a parent and key person evening on Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd, Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February.

This will be a short informal catch-up and a chance for you to talk about your child's progress and interests.

We will be holding these after 5:00pm. There will be sign-up sheets on the top of the garden library from the end of this week. Each key person will have a selection of times and dates for you to choose from. If you could write your name next to the time you would like.

We will try to do our best to accommodate as many parents as possible. If you are not able to attend at any of these times, please speak to your key person and we can find a more appropriate time.

We would appreciate masks being worn when inside the building and if possible children and siblings not to attend, in accordance with our Covid policy.

Bug Hotel

We have been working with Kidlington Parish Council and have been put in charge of a bug hotel, which is within Exeter Playground.

We have started collecting things for the hotel, but are looking for any donations of the following that you may have at home or work:

- Bamboo canes.
- Bark chips
- Corrugated cardboard or cardboard tubes.
- Dead wood or wood chips.
- Dry leaves and dry sticks.
- House bricks
- Old terracotta pots
- Roof tiles
- Drainpipes

We look forward to taking the children over there to set it up soon.



Family Books and Family Tree

We would like for every child at nursery to either have a family book if they are in Bumble Bees or a photograph for our family tree if they are in Butterflies.

We would love it, if you haven't done so already, to send us 4 or 5 photos of family members or events for the Bumble Bees. The Butterflies just need one photograph of your immediate family to put up on our family tree. If these could be emailed to the office we can print any out.

The children really do love looking at the pictures and it is a great way of developing language and communication. If you are unsure, please speak to your key person.