

Dear Parents and Carers,

November and December are a very busy time of year at Nursery with lots of events and things to celebrate with the children. We have been focusing on autumn and the changing seasons around us. As we enter November we will be celebrating Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day and Diwali, as well as looking forward to Christmas. We hope that the children enjoying learning and taking part in lots of crafts and creative activities related to these.



Planting herbs in the garden



Exploring pumpkins



Our firework and bonfire artwork

Colder Weather:

Please remember that as the weather is getting colder all the children will still have daily access to the outside area.

The children will need warm coats and possibly hats and gloves.

Could we also ask that children who bring welly boots also have a pair of indoor shoes to change into.

Thank You

Nursery Story App:

We hope you are enjoying the photographs and updates on the Nursery Story App. We understand some parents have had a few issues and we are in contact with the company to try and resolve these. Please let Becca know if you have any issues.



This Term in Bumble Bees.....

The children have loved looking at their family photograph books, so thank you for providing the photos. It is such a great conversation starter and provides so many language and communication skills.

This term our theme will be animals and we will have a different focus each week.

- 9th – 13th Nov Dear Zoo Week
- 16th – 20th Nov- Jungle Week
- 23rd – 27th Nov –Pet Week
- 30th – 4th Dec -Under the Sea Week
- 7th – 11th Dec –Farm Week
- 14th – 18th Dec -Polar Week

This Term in Butterflies.....

We will be looking at different sorts of animals. The children will explore the different sounds animals make and where they live.

We will explore the animals through crafts, small world play and books. As well as songs and rhymes, such as Old MacDonald and Baa, Baa Black Sheep.

We will also have lots of sensory activities and activities relating to winter and Christmas.

Thank you to everyone for their family photographs, our tree is filling up. We welcome any family photographs for our tree if you haven't done so yet.

School Places

If your child is 4 years old by 31st August 2021, then you will need to apply for their school place via Oxfordshire County Council website. This needs to be done by 15th January 2021.

Changes to sessions for January 2021

If anyone would like to change or add sessions in January, then please could you email office@smallstepsnursery.co.uk with your requests.

We cannot guarantee any changes, but if we can accommodate a change then we will. We are getting busier now in both rooms and want to make sure we can help existing parents, before taking people from our waiting list.

Please can you have your requests, via email, in by 30th November.



November 2020

3 Year Old Funding

The children that have turned 3 years old between 1st September and 31st December are entitled to funding in January.

Every child will receive 12 hours per week funding at Small Steps (not 15 hours as this is term time only). Forms will be sent out to you in January to claim for this.

Some parents may be entitled to additional funding. This funding is based on your household income and you will need to apply for this via www.childcarechoices.go.uk. This will give you a code that you then need to bring to us, along with your national insurance number. We can then claim up to 23.5 hours per week of funding.

Please make sure you apply for the additional funding via the government website as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

We would like to welcome 3 new members of staff to the nursery.

Catherine is with us on a Monday and Wednesday morning. She has a level 3 in childcare and experience of working in both a Nursery and Pre-schools. She will be based in Bumble Bees room.

Fiona is working with us every day and is spending time in both rooms. She is going to be undertaking her childcare training while working with us.

Lia is helping us to support the children over the lunch time period. She has had experience of early year's children in a local crèche.

We welcome them all to our team!

Important Dates

Friday 18th December – Last Day of Term

Monday 4th January – First Day of Term.

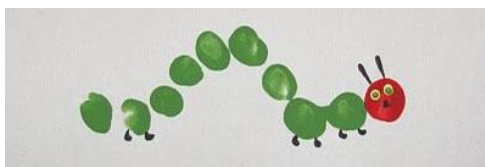
Friday 2nd April – Bank Holiday

Monday 5th April to 9th April – Easter Holiday, Nursery closed.



Please see the attached letter about the opportunity to purchase items with your child's artwork on them. They make great presents for friends and family and will be delivered in time for Christmas!

Please have orders returned to us with the correct money or cheque in an envelope by Friday 20th November.



Children in Need

On Friday 13th November we will be celebrating Children In Need by asking everyone to either dress in yellow or spots.

The children will have a chance to take part in Pudsey themed activities all week.

We will have a collection if anyone would like to donate.

