



## Newsletter June - August 2021

We are really looking forward to a busy summer term. We know for some children this will be their last few weeks with us before they move on to school and other settings and we look forward to making these an enjoyable few weeks. September will see a few changes to the way we observe and record your child's development at nursery. This is due to national changes to the curriculum framework that we follow. Staff are busy attending training and getting ready for these changes and we will update you of these in September.

### Important Dates:

- Nursery closed Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August until Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August.
- Nursery closed from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December until Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

### Summer Months

Please could you provide your child with a named sun hat and sun cream at Nursery. The sun cream and hat can be kept in their bag. Please also provide ice packs in lunch boxes to keep food cool. Thank you



### Willow and Pea Photography

We know that you are excited to see the results of the photographs that Alex took at the setting a couple of weeks ago.

An email containing the instructions about how to access your child's photographs, via Alex's website, will be coming within the next couple of weeks. You can then order directly from the Willow and Pea website and they will be delivered to you.

Please keep an eye out for this email from us.

### We are learning this term .....

This term both Bumble Bees and Butterflies theme will be 'Growing and Changing'.

We will be looking at how plants grow by planting seeds and taking care of them. We will also be thinking about how we grow and change and what keeps us healthy.

The children will have the opportunity to explore a couple of exciting experiences this term with the Living Egg experience and watching caterpillars turn into butterflies.

We also continue to follow the children's interests and this is a key feature of our planning. So many sensory and role-play experiences will develop and support the children's knowledge of the world around them.

### Staff Changes .....

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to Lucy on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Lucy has been an amazing member of our team and we are very thankful to her for all her hard work at Small Steps. We wish her the very best of luck in her new adventure at a primary school.

We have also said goodbye to Catherine for a short time as she has started her maternity leave. We wish her lots of luck and hope to meet her new arrival very soon!

We are very excited to have 3 new members of staff join our team:

Hayley started a couple of weeks ago in Bumble Bees room. She has lots of experience of working in day nurseries and the children have enjoyed getting to know her.

Iona has also joined us 2 mornings a week on a more permanent basis, having covered for us in the past.

Suzanne will be joining us in September. She has many years' experience in childcare and has most recently been a childminder. We look forward to welcoming her soon.

There may be some changes to key persons and we will inform you of these next week.

Some Changes to Small Steps ....

We are very excited to tell you all about some improvements we will be making to the nursery over the next couple of months.

As you will have noticed, the ramp to the front of the building is coming to the end of its life. This is being replaced in a few weeks' time. This will mean that we will have to use the back entrance, by the tennis courts while the work is taking place. We will give you more information about this at the time.

The other change is to the garden. We are opening up the garden by removing the decked area around the tree. While the decking gives the children an elevated space to play, we feel the extra space created by its removal will help the children's physical skills develop further. The area will then be resurfaced in a rubber mulch to allow all weather play. This work will hopefully happen before the school summer holidays.



We are very excited to have the Living Egg experience with us from 21<sup>st</sup> June. The eggs will arrive and the children will get the opportunity to see the chicks hatch and develop over two weeks.

This is such a great experience and one that the children will enjoy watching. We will be providing updates on our Facebook page and will share some photos through Nursery Story with you.

The experience is fully risk assessed and all aspects of the experience are carefully managed by the staff. If you have any concerns, please speak to a member of staff.



This term we will be working with Oxfordshire Community Dental Services to complete their Health Smiles accreditation for settings. The staff will be receiving training from the service about how we can teach the children about keeping their teeth healthy. We will also be passing some information on to you about oral hygiene. We hope you will find this useful.



**Absences**

As part of our safeguarding duties we are required to know why a child is not at nursery if they normally attend.

Please could you inform us if your child is not going to attend on a certain day, either for illness or holidays.

Please either ring the nursery on 01865 377844 or email us. If we do not hear from you by 10am then we will try to contact you.

Home Learning Ideas – Cress growing is one of the easiest things to grow at home and children will love seeing how the seeds change quickly. It's a great way to show that the food we eat can be grown. It can also be used as a sensory base for small world animals, such as animals and dinosaurs.



**Please can adults continue to remember to wear face masks at the door and to socially distance when waiting outside. We understand restrictions are lifting in other sectors but our advice remains the same. Thank you**