



NEWSLETTER - September 2014

Dear parents/carers,

Well, here we are at the beginning of another academic year.

Our older children have made their transitions to school, some of which I remember starting here as babies! I know staff would like to say a big thank you for all the chocolates and biscuits that have been given to them so..... **Thank you!**

We are looking forward to a busy year with lots of lovely activities planned for each of the areas, more details further on in the newsletter, and following the success of our Pirate Day, are looking to link up each of the areas in whole topic days. We will make sure that you are all informed and are welcome to join us.

I would like to thank members of our Parent's Forum who have supported the setting for the past 18 months. Donna Webber, Louise Burt, Karen Train and Leanne Speed attended meetings and provided suggestions to support the development of the setting.

This year, we felt it would be good to take a different approach to developing our parent partnerships. We would like to offer parents and carers the opportunity to come into the centre for some workshops looking at the Early Years Foundation Stage, and how we help and support your children's learning. These will be arranged at different times either during the day or early evening to hopefully allow everyone the chance to join in. At the same time, we can take feedback on how as parents and carers, you feel we are doing, and what we could do to develop the Centre.

We have invested in a new management system in the nursery which will support the practitioners with their observations and assessments on the children. The observations will be captured on tablets and the information printed to go into the children's personal pathways. We will be asking for your input and feedback when we have the system up and running!

Please take note of our upcoming important dates, Jeans for Genes day, photograph days and our planned training days for the coming year when the nursery will be closed.

As ever, if you have any thoughts or suggestions, please speak to one of the members of the team.

With best wishes,

Kate

Look out for National Nursery Rhyme Week - 10th to 14th November!
Dressing-up will be required!

0 – 2's Area

We are pleased our new children are settling in well. We were sad to say goodbye to our older ones who have transitioned over to 2-3's, but they are loving their new area.

This part of the year is all about settling new children. Jasmine is making a board with the children all about our nursery day to help them feel confident and settled.

We would be grateful if any parents would like to donate any wind chimes or musical instruments that they no longer want. Also any spare items for sensory baskets e.g. Wooden spoons, small safe household items, new sponges or fabrics.

Also please remember some wellington boots.

We still love to go out in the garden come rain or shine!



2 – 3's Area

We have been busy welcoming and settling in all of our 2 year olds, many of whom have come up from the baby room. Our main focus this term is self-confidence and making relationships to help make all of our children feel happy and secure whilst at nursery.

The children are enjoying going on bug and frog hunts in the garden and this has led to lots of wonderful craft opportunities.



We will be looking at harvesting the food from the nursery garden and of course enjoying eating them! We will be extending this focus with stories, craft and cooking activities.



3 – 4's Area

We are looking forward to a new term and welcoming lots of new and familiar faces.

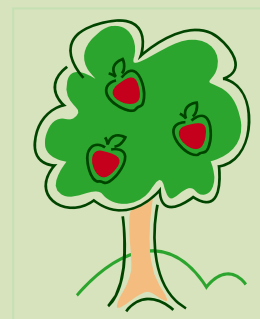
This term we will be talking about our feelings and helping the children to understand that all feelings are important. The children will be discovering things about autumn, looking at the natural world and celebrating apple day. We will be looking at our local community and joining in with all that is Bridgwater Carnival, including dressing up and building carts (cardboard box versions)!

The children will also be taking part in speaking and listening activities throughout the day, exploring sounds in words and developing their listening skills as part of Letters and Sounds, a programme to support children's communication. Each week the children will learn a new 'sign' as part of the Somerset Total Communication programme and a weekly nursery rhyme or song. These will be displayed for you to share with your child on the 3-4 entrance door. We will also be developing our counting and number skills, through play and rhymes.

Finally look out for witches, wizards and ghosts when we hope everyone will dress up for Halloween (staff too!).

We are collecting clean, empty plastic pots with screw lids, any old boxes of all sizes from toothpaste boxes to large cardboard boxes, cardboard tubes, foil containers and yogurt pots. Also old hats, purses and handbags. Scarves and scraps of fabric, anything goes as long as clean and safe for children to create with.

Please remember even the older children require at least one change of clothes, including pants every day! It would also be wonderful if you could provide your child with their own NAMED wellies (any spare wellies would be gratefully received)



Supermarket Vouchers - Thank-you for all the support collecting Sainsbury's vouchers over the spring and summer term; we are now collecting the Morrison's vouchers....please bring in any vouchers you receive (from friends and family too)!!



Staffing News - We would like to welcome back Kelly from her Maternity leave. Kelly has come back into the 2-3 area. Ellie is now a full time member of Staff in the 3-4's area and Abi has transferred to the 2-3's area. We also have a new practitioner called Gemma who has started in the 3-4's area.

Clothes and Essentials - Children need to come to nursery with a change of clothes.

Please also ensure all of your child's clothes are named. As the weather is getting colder, and we will be out in all weathers, please bring your child in a coat and suitable clothing.

Please also ensure we have enough nappies and baby wipes if your child requires them.

We are always grateful for donations of old clothes we can use as spare nursery clothes (especially the bottom half, trousers, pants, socks etc.) We are in need of wellies too so if you have any that have been outgrown, we would be grateful for them!



Shopping - Keep an eye out in reception – from time to time we have books and various items for sale – from companies such as The Book People and Index.

They are usually only here for a week, but some fantastic bargains to be had in the run up to Christmas!



Can you please help us? We are looking to develop areas of outside space. We would like donations of any garden building materials e.g. hosepipes, corrugated plastic, guttering, piping.

We are going to create water ways using the guttering and ball tubes.



2 Year Funding - The criteria has changed for children to be eligible for 2 Year Funding – it now also includes families in receipt of Working Tax Credit with an annual income below £16,190 (same criteria for free school meals). If you think you may be eligible apply online or find out more at www.somerset.gov.uk/2yo

We will be taking part in this year's Jeans for Genes Day on Friday 19th September

Jeans for Genes Day raises money for Genetic Disorders UK, the charity that aims to transform the lives of children with genetic disorders. Funds raised provide vital care and support for thousands of children with genetic disorders.

Genetic disorders affect 1 in 25 children born in the UK.

All children and staff are invited to wear their jeans on Friday 19th September to help Jeans for Genes Day reach its target of £2.5million. We'd like everyone to take part so please send your little one to nursery on the Day **wearing their jeans and with a donation.**

If you'd like to know more about Jeans for Genes Day and how our support will help, you can visit their website at www.jeansforgenesday.org



Reminder.... Important Dates for Your Diary



Jeans for Genes Day	19 th September 2014
Individual Photographs	8 th October and 13 th October 2014
Autumn Half Term	27 th October – 31 st October 2014
Staff Development Day – Nursery Closed	31 st October 2014
Nursery Rhyme Week	10 th – 14 th November 2014
Children in Need Day	14 th November 2014
Staff Development Day – Nursery Closed	19 th December 2014
Christmas Holidays – Nursery Closed	22 nd December 2014 – 2 nd January 2015
Deadline for Primary School Applications	15 th January 2015
Half Term	16 th February – 20 th February 2015
World Book Day	5 th March 2015
Easter Holidays	30 th March – 10 th April 2015
Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed	3 rd April 2015
Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed	6 th April 2015
Staff Development Day – Nursery Closed	13 th April 2015
Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed	4 th May 2015
Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed	25 th May 2015
Half Term	25 th May – 29 th May 2015
Staff Development Day – Nursery Closed	3 rd July 2015
Summer Holidays	21 st July – 28 th August 2015
Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed	31 st August 2015

IMPORTANT - Please let us know if your child is going to be absent from Nursery

If your child is ill or is going to be absent from Nursery for whatever reason, please can you ring in **by 9am** if possible.
Thank you.

Direct Line 01278 441270

Email childcare@bridgwater.ac.uk

Reception is open 8.00am – 5.45pm Mon - Fri

