

Welcome Back to Nursery's Final Term

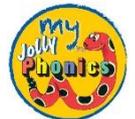
We can't believe that the children have completed two terms and are now preparing to start school! We are delighted that so many children have signed up for afternoon sessions – we are going to have a lot of fun this term!

Diary Dates

There are opportunities each term for the children to share their learning with you. This term, we will have a Summer Assembly and a Sports Day event. It is also a busy term with lots of transition events ready for starting school in September. As well as scheduled events, we will take lots of opportunities to visit reception classrooms and shared learning spaces. Further details will follow nearer the time about all these summer events. **We will request some adult support for our visit to the Library and Nursing Home**, although I am still liaising with the library to find a suitable date. If you are available and willing to help, please let Mrs Simmons know. (Monday 13th May & Friday 7th June)

- **Monday 13th May, AM: Foxgrove Nursing Home visit.** We will be having a planting workshop with Gardener Roy at Foxgrove Residential Home. Children have consent for this visit with the previously signed 'Local Visits' permission slip. We will register as normal and will leave at approximately 9:30am.
- **Friday 24th May: PD Day**
- **w/c Monday 27th May 2019: HALF TERM**
- **Friday 7th June: Picnic at Foxgrove Nursing Home and ring games.** We will return to the Nursing home for a picnic and ring games.
- **Saturday 15th June, 2pm-4:30pm: Summer Fair.**
- **Tuesday 18th June: Class Photo.** Nursery children not usually attending this session will be invited in for our photograph. The time will be approximately 9am. ☺
- **Tuesday 25th June–Thursday 27th June: 'Stay and Play' events in Reception with a trial lunch.** A parent/adult is required to accompany children throughout this transition event as Nursery Staff will be remaining in the Nursery. *Information will follow shortly.*
- **Monday 1st July: Early Years Parents' Meeting.** An information event about starting in Reception. *Information will follow shortly.*
- **Library visit:** To be confirmed.
- **Tuesday 16th July–Thursday 18th July: Reception taster sessions.** Children will spend the morning with their new teacher in their new classroom. Nursery staff can escort the children to and from these events unless parents would like to do this themselves. ☺
- **Friday 19th July, 10:45am: Nursery's Summer Assembly in the school hall (max. of 4 adults per child).** We will then have refreshments back at Nursery.

Nursery routines: Morning and afternoon sessions start and conclude with a whole class teaching session on the carpet. The play and explore sessions focus on collaborative play and the opportunity to work on individual projects. The play is often uninterrupted unless the children are completing an activity with an adult, such as a game or craft activity. Children will spend time outdoors so will need to have clothing for all weathers – showers and beautiful sunshine. The Summer Term builds on the first Phase of Phonics within the Letters and Sounds programme, introducing children to letters and sounds. There are seven aspects to Phase One and information can be found on the following websites:



<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1.html>
<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/WhatIsPhonics.htm>

Children will be refining their counting skills and exploring numerals through games and counting songs. Children are focusing on combining groups as an introduction to addition. They will explore the concept of 'taking away' using counting equipment and games. Children will also explore shape names and properties as well as copying and creating patterns. Children will explore the concept of size and weight through their play.

Snack: The children are very independent at snack time including pouring drinks with jugs of water and tidying up after themselves. As the weather improves, we will be enjoying a picnic style snack time. Snack will be during both morning and afternoon sessions. Children have enjoyed a selection of cut up fruit and vegetables but as we prepare for school, children will be offered one whole piece of fruit or vegetables.



Cooking and planting: Children really enjoyed opportunities to cook last term. We are keen to extend this experience to growing their own plants and vegetables. As with cooking, children will have some plants to bring home. Sometimes their 'cooking' will be eaten during nursery sessions and sometimes it will be sent home. **We are asking for a £3 donation for the summer term** towards cooking ingredients and seeds. Please send the money in a sealed envelope with your child's name written on the front. Please hand to a member of the Nursery staffing team.

Being independent: The children try very hard to be independent. With summer upon us, we will expect a mixed bag of weather with rain showers, cool breezes and sunshine. Please ensure children have a raincoat, warm layer for outdoor play and a sunhat. Naming belongings is a big help in supporting children to take care of their belongings (especially as they all have similar sunhats.) It is recommended that children establish a routine of storing their hats in their bags. Just a reminder that some clothing can hinder their independent toileting efforts, such as tight jeans and belts.



Suncream: The children do require sensible footwear for cold and wet days but these are often not ideal for their indoor 'Play and Explore' activities. Children can also find welly boots uncomfortable when sitting on the carpet. Please change the children into shoes or slippers on entry but leave any outdoor footwear by their coat so they can change shoes if choosing to play outdoors. No flip flops or open-toed sandals please – in line with the school policy for footwear.



Nursery listening rules: We have four prompts to support good listening routines. The listening lights are turned on to indicate a whole class teaching session. The children are reminded that they need their listening ears, listening lips (not talking), listening eyes (looking at the speaker) and listening fingers (not touching anything.)

This term we will be completing regular 'white sheet tasks', symbolising a focus for discussion with images and artefacts placed on a white sheet. These activities focus on sharing children's own knowledge and ideas but also listening to others and building on their ideas. Talk underpins all activities in the Early Years. White sheet tasks focus on the skill of discussing their ideas, observations and learning to develop their speech into complex sentences using the word 'because'.



Home/School Learning: We love to hear about the children's learning at home. Children are always welcome to bring in examples of work from home to share with the class. Parents are also invited to share any achievements on their child's Tapestry account.

Maths at home: In Nursery, we focus on numbers 0-10 by reciting numbers in order, representing numbers using fingers, learning numerals and comparing quantities. We are often asked for advice and ideas to support mathematics at home. Your child will bring home an updated 'Number Pack' with suggested maths challenges as well as subitising resources and games. Subitising is the ability to instantaneously recognise the quantity without the need to count them – such as a dice or domino's arrangement of dots. 'Subitising' is a focus for Early Years with lots of resources and activities available to explore number. Maths games are available on the school website with links for suggested games.



Bedtime Story Library: We want the children to develop a real love for reading. Early reading skills include showing awareness of rhyme and alliteration (e.g. Peppa Pig, Rebecca Rabbit). We know that a good bedtime routine is beneficial to most households. Bedtime storybooks can play an important role and you are welcome to borrow a book or two from the book boxes in our cloakroom. Simply return the books when you have finished with them. 😊

Read a bedtime story

Cuddle up for some cosy story time. Your child will love spending time with you, and hearing you give all the character's silly voices. It'll even help him learn new words, and encourage a lifelong love of reading.

Give your child a choice of books from a small selection each night. They'll enjoy getting to have their say. You may end up reading the same few books for week or so, but repetition is a key part of your toddler's learning. While it may be a tad frustrating for you, it's great for his development!

Class Toy: We were so busy last term that 'Bubble & Squeak' and 'maths monkey', the class toys, never made it home. We will endeavour to establish this at the beginning of term. Talk underpins all learning in Early Years. The class toy will provide an excellent opportunity for children to develop their speaking and listening skills. The toy will come for an over-night adventure with some activities. We want children to be able to retell a simple past event in the correct order so a few notes in the diary can assist staff in offering relevant prompts.



Volunteer helpers: If you wish to help in class please speak to Mrs Simmons. This could be a regular commitment or a one-off visit. If you plan to help on a regular basis, then you will ask you to complete an application form and complete a DBS check. Please note that if you are a parent of a child in school, you will be allocated to an alternative class to the one your child is in.

School pupil details and collection arrangements: If any of your details change e.g. address, mobile number, your child's medical records etc. please inform the office ASAP. Please can you also inform staff or the school office if your child will be collected from nursery by someone other than yourself. We will try our best to familiarise ourselves with the regular collecting adults. If we are unaware of a new face, we will need to get your consent for them to remove your child. This can be embarrassing for staff and collecting adults so please ensure that you keep staff informed of any changes to regular pick-up arrangements. You can call the school office and they can pass on any messages. Safeguarding your children is our main priority. ☺

Nursery Funded Sessions: Mrs Barrow in the School Office co-ordinates the paperwork for our sessions and any changes in personal circumstances can be discussed with her.

Toys and Games: Please think of us if you are having a clear out. The Friends of Fairfield Association collect donations for the fair. We also like any donations of unwanted toys, games and role-play outfits that could be used in our hall or outdoor area. We are especially grateful for donations of bikes, helmets, dolls prams etc.

Mud Kitchen: As you will appreciate we are reluctant to introduce mud to our kitchen but mud is always available to the children in our digging box. We try and incorporate other natural ingredients such as flowers, pinecones, freshly cut grass etc. Please think of us if you are gardening, we just ask that any cuttings are dry and stored in a bag or other suitable container.



Arriving at school: Doors open at 8.40am/12:20pm (afternoon session) and staff will meet you at the nursery gate, unless alternative arrangements have been discussed. Children will self-register using their name blocks then will sit on the carpet ready for registration. If you arrive late to school, you will need to enter school via the main school entrance so that your child can be entered in the register. If your child is unwell and therefore not attending nursery, can you please contact the school office to let us know.

Security Arrangements: Please be advised that between sessions, there will be no access to the main school from the Fairfield Avenue entrance. Access will be via High Road West only. The Fairfield Avenue entrance will be locked at 9.10am, opening again for the lunchtime collection.

If you have any questions about the Nursery routines, please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Thank you for your continued support, **The Nursery Team**