



Big Nursery Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



Term dates

21st December - Friday 1st January - Christmas holidays
Monday 4th January - Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 5th January - Induction Day for new children only
Wednesday 6th January - Returning children back to Nursery
Monday 15th - Friday 19th February - February half term
Friday 2nd - Friday 16th April - Easter holidays
Monday 3rd May - Bank holiday
Tuesday 4th May - Teacher Training Day
Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June - May half term
Wednesday 21st July - Teacher Training Day
Thursday 22nd July - SUMMER HOLIDAYS



Primary School starters September 2021

Nursery children that are starting school in September 2021 **must** apply for their school place before **Friday 15th January 2021** in order to be allocated a primary school place. You can make your application online by following the steps on the website at: www.warwickshire.gov.uk/admissions National offer day is Friday 16th April 2021.

Parent Governor

Becoming a governor offers you the opportunity to make a real contribution to the life and work of our Nursery. Governors play a key role in the leadership of the Nursery, and work together with staff to make sure that our Nursery provides a challenging and supportive environment for its children.

We have vacancies for:

- **Parent Governor**—if you have a child attending the Nursery
- **Co-opted Governor** — any member of the community.
(This could be anyone living in the local community or a local business person)



If you are interested please ask at the Reception Office.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

On behalf of all the Nursery staff we would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and we will see you when Nursery re-opens to returning children on

Wednesday 6th January.

Teaching and Learning

The children have enjoyed helping the nursery team to transform their learning area into a festive, Winter Wonderland. They particularly enjoyed decorating the Christmas tree and hanging the baubles and decorations up. They are enjoying learning new Christmas songs and Makaton actions. We hope you enjoy singing these songs together at home too using the 'Christmas Sing Song' booklet that we provided.

Recent Forest School sessions have safely introduced real tools to the children. Next year we will be introducing our tool bench for woodwork and give children the opportunity to use hammer and nails, saw or a screwdriver with direct adult supervision. Woodwork provides another medium through which children can express their creativity and offers experiences that become deeply embedded in their memory. This sense of empowerment and achievement provides a visible boost to their self-esteem and self-confidence.

Staff will support children to develop an awareness of health and safety, as they wear gloves, safety goggles and the adult closely monitors and models the expectations.

In the Moment Planning has reflected that the children have enjoyed using loose parts to aid their physical, social and communication skills. The children have used wooden planks, crates, logs and tyres to create their own balancing assault course. They have also shown creativity and imagination, as they have converted the materials into a bus, car or train that they have used for role-play learning opportunities.



Parker Poundasaurus

Parker Poundosaurus is often hungry and likes to eat coins. Children are welcome to feed a £1 weekly voluntary contribution to Parker to help raise money for nursery funds for special activities like 'Growing Day' and to buy new resources for the children to enjoy. Parker

Poundosaurus will join us at the beginning of sessions and will be located outside Nursery. Keep a watch out for him.



Welcome to our Zen Den



We are excited to share our new outdoor teaching space using the new bell tent in our nursery garden. This area has been named the 'Zen Den' and provides a calm, tranquil space that supports wellbeing and relaxation.

The children are enjoying engaging in yoga and tai chi sessions here. The space is also beneficial for personal and social intervention work or group time sessions.



As the area is outdoors it provides fresh air and natural light and is ideal to provide shelter from different weather types.



Emergency School Closure

For all up to date school closures please see the following website:



IMPORTANT

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education-learning/emergency-school-closures-1>



Remote Home Learning

We will be supporting our families with Remote Home Learning should your child have to self-isolate. This will be provided by text links to our Stockingford Nursery School website –

www.stockingfordnurseryschool.co.uk where daily activities and weekly 'Making Memories' challenges will be posted. Information will also be provided on our Stockingford Nursery School Facebook page. Please feel free to contact us with any questions and to share photographs of home learning by using our parents email –

parents1041@welearn365.com



Makaton signs of the Month December

We will be helping children to communicate through Makaton signs and spoken language.



We are proud to say we are Makaton friendly

Christmas Tree



Toys

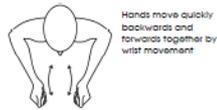
Father Christmas



Christmas



Sleigh



Reindeer



British Values Individual Liberty

Individual liberty or 'freedom for all' links to Self-Confidence and Self-Awareness from the Personal Social and Emotional Development section of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. We develop this value by encouraging children to make choices, to develop independence and to allow them to think for themselves. In Nursery, children are able to independently choose resources to extend their knowledge in the indoor and outdoor environment and at Forest School. Through 'In the moment Planning' we take into account every unique child's starting points, individual interests and then scaffold learning to support them with their next steps for learning. This helps children to develop a positive sense of themselves and to become, confident, independent learners. We support this by providing a range of experiences that allows children to explore feelings and responsibility, encouraging children to voice their own opinions but to listen and value different opinions from others.



NHS
South Warwickshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Warwickshire Health Visiting
TEXT Chat Service

**ADVICE &
SUPPORT**
for parents of
pre-school children
in Warwickshire

TEXT:07520 615293
9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only,
which will be charged at your normal rate.

THIS IS NOT AN EMERGENCY SERVICE
For urgent medical attention please contact your GP or call 111 or 999

CHAT Health

A texting advice service for parents and carers of the pre-school child.

If you have any questions about your pre-school child, or your own health and well-being you can use our texting service 07520 615293 anytime. A health visitor will aim to text you back within 2 hours in normal working hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, excluding Bank Holidays).

Please note we support messaging from UK numbers only, which will be charged at your normal rate.

Family Support Drop In for advice for all families in Warwickshire

For families, children and young people 0-19 years old, or 0-25 years with additional needs

Duty Line 01926 412412
9am – 4pm Monday – Friday



Family Information Service (FIS)

We provide information, advice and one-to-one support for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 across Warwickshire on issues including:

- family relationships
- finance
- housing
- parenting support
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- childcare health and wellbeing



Phone: 01926 742274

Website: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families>

Well being corner

Your wellbeing this Christmas

This year Christmas may look and feel very different. It is important to not put on much pressure on yourself so we have included some tips for supporting you and your family.

Tips for coping during Christmas

- ◆ Be gentle, generous and patient with yourself
- ◆ Plan ahead
- ◆ Manage relationships
- ◆ Look after yourself
- ◆ Talking to other people
- ◆ Get support



Instead of going to a Christmas carol concert or service, you could watch one on TV or join in with a virtual choir. If you'd usually share a meal with certain people, such as friends or co-workers, you could plan to order delivery or cook and eat a meal at the same time.

If you usually take children to a Christmas fair or to visit Father Christmas, you could help them write a letter to Santa instead.

Make Christmas crafts with your child to help decorate your tree or home.

If you are planning to give any gifts, you could exchange your gifts in advance, so you don't have to worry about it on the day.

Connect with others

Connect with people:

If there are people you'd like to speak to, you could arrange to talk over the phone or via video call. If you're worried about what to talk about, you could organise an activity to do at the same time. For example, this could be watching a film together or doing a quiz. Let others know your plan. It might help to say that you're happy to hear from them on Christmas day

Go online:

There are lots of ways to talk to people online, including with others who may be spending Christmas alone. Mind's online community **Side by Side** is a welcoming place to speak with others and share your experiences. And British comedian **Sarah Millican** hosts a **Christmas day chat on Twitter each year**, which anyone can join.

For more information, please log onto MIND:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/christmas-and-mental-health/christmas-and-coronavirus/#collapseb94d9>

Recycling

We are keen to promote recycling at Nursery and teach the children how to take care and sustain their natural environment. Teaching staff will be supporting children to become environmentally responsible and show respect for their environment. Practitioners will be encouraging children to be actively involved, contributing ideas and taking actions through sustainability activities and themes. An example of this in practice is when the children upcycle resources in their Christmas Crafts home learning packs to create Christmas decorations.

At Nursery we are keen to use reusable plastic cups and plates rather than single use resources. We have also introduced milk and water jugs at snack-time for children to have drinks together with their healthy snacks. This has helped to reduce the use of individual milk containers with plastic packaging and straws. The children will be developing their understanding of different types of materials, as they classify and sort plastic and paper/card resources to be recycled into recycling bins which are stationed within the nursery environment.



At lunch -time children will have the opportunity to recycle their empty plastic bottles and yoghurt containers using the plastic recycling bin provided. In our Nursery garden we have a composter, so that we can turn food and plant waste into compost which can then be used in the garden to help plants to grow. The children will be able to observe this



environmentally friendly composting process. We have recently purchased food caddy's so that dry food, fruit and vegetables can be transported from the classroom to the composter. We will be involving the children in the process and they will be able to observe the changes and use the compost for gardening activities.

Please could you support us in our drive towards embedding an awareness and culture of effective recycling across the Nursery community. If you have any ideas and suggestions, please could you share with Mrs King through our parents' email address :

parents1041@welearn365.com.

Ideas?

