



The White House Nursery Oakwood Parent Newsletter – March 2021

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their continued support and understanding throughout these challenging times. We understand that the weather is sometimes unpredictable and there may be a slight wait when getting children into and out of the building during drop off and collection times. Thank you for your patience.

Parent Memos:

- Please ensure your child is well enough to be at nursery. We understand that as the weather is changing colds are more common, however when your child is ill they may need to be at home to avoid spreading illness to other children
- Please ensure no medication is stored in children's bags. Children can access their own belongings whilst at nursery and this is to ensure we are keeping all children safe. If a child does require prescribed medication whilst at nursery this needs to be handed over to the staff member on arrival and the required forms to be filled out.
- Please discourage children from bringing toys in from home, unless this is used as a comforter. Also, no foods to be brought in from home as we have children on site with severe allergies.
- Please ensure that your child has a nursery bag with enough spare clothes in for the day and that they are suitable for the changes in weather. Please also ensure and that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. We do have some nursery clothes for emergencies, but these are also running low. If you have any nursery clothes at home, please can you return them.
- We appreciate some of our parents may be exempt from wearing a face covering, so please ensure you are maintaining social distancing at all times when dropping off and collecting children.
- Can you please ensure that you have collected your child in time to receive feedback before their session finishes. We are trying to put as much information as possible on parent zone to support smooth collection times but if there is anything you want to know please ask.
- We want to remind all parents that nursery closes at 6.00pm, all children need to be collected and feedback given by 6.00pm in order to give staff the time to complete health and safety and close down checks before their shift finishes.
- It is imperative that you let us know if any of your emergency details change. This includes your secure passwords, caregiver names, home address, telephone numbers and email addresses. This information must be up to date at all times in the event of an emergency and we need to contact you.



What to pack in your nursery bag...

- ☒ A supply of wipes *(All children)*
- ☒ A supply of nappies
- ☒ Changes of clean clothes
- ☒ Nappy Cream
- ☒ Child's Medication
(To be handed over to unit staff and documents signed)
- ☒ Seasonal items
(Wellies, hat, gloves, coat or snow suit, sun hat)
- ☒ Spare underwear
- ☒ Comforter *(If applicable)*

Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name to avoid any mix ups!



What NOT to pack in your nursery bag...

- ☒ Adults Medication
- ☒ Snacks/ Sweets
- ☒ Drinks
- ☒ Nappy Sacks
- ☒ Plastic Bags
- ☒ Cigarettes
- ☒ Money



Some of these items could be a health and safety risk for children, please ensure they are not left in nursery bags.
Thank you.

Outdoor Play:

The children continue to spend a large part of the day outside, so please can we ask all parents to provide suitable footwear and clothing for outdoor play such as - wellies, a warm waterproof coat and/or a puddle suit. This includes babies who are cruising/ crawling. These can be left at nursery if needed.

Staff Updates:

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, our staff have been accessing and using other methods of training such as online resources and webinars rather than attending classes and workshops in person. Staff have been working on COVID-19 prevent, food safety and safeguarding recently. We will continue to use this method of training until it is safe to resume face to face training classes.

We have now welcomed Scott to our preschool team and he is really looking forward to getting to know the children and their families.

Helen, Stacey and Nicole have left the White House Nursery to peruse other avenues and we wish them all the best in their futures.



Safeguarding:

Can we please ask that when you are driving in or out of the nursery car park you keep your speed to a minimum and drive with caution.

We ask all parents and carers to inform us if and when your child has had an injury at home, no matter how small it may seem. You will need to complete a pre-existing injury form on drop off with the details of the injury, so the staff are aware.

Term Dates:

Bank Holidays

Friday 2nd April & Monday 5th April, Monday 3rd May and Monday 31st May

Easter Holidays

Our 38 week funded children break up on Friday 26th March and return on Monday 19th April (3 weeks holiday)

Our 44 week term time only children break up on Thursday 1st April and return on Monday 19th April

Dates For Your Diary:

Mother's Day Celebrations - w/c 8th March - Each room will be busy with the children talking about Mother's Day and this special celebration throughout the week. The children will also be busy with arts and crafts so they can take home a little gift. Please see your child's individual room newsletter for more details.

Easter Activities - w/c 26th March - Each room will be doing lots of exciting activities with the children to celebrate Easter including an egg hunt in the garden and baking chocolate nests, tasting hot cross buns at snack time and much more... Please see your child's individual room newsletter for more details.

World Book Day Celebrations - w/c 1st March - All children are welcome to bring their favourite book to Nursery and share it with the children and staff. The children are also welcome to dress up this week as a character from one of their favourite stories. This is to celebrate world book day on 4th March. We have included some tips below on how to share stories with your children...

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
5 MARCH 2020

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ILLUSTRATION BY Rob Biddulph

TOP TIPS

TEN TIPS

for sharing stories with
children & young people of all ages

Sharing stories is a fantastically fun way to celebrate the joy of books and reading with children of all ages, and spark their imagination. Parents, carers, siblings and friends spending just 10 minutes a day reading with children can help to create readers for life.



1 BE PREPARED

Sharing a story should be FUN for everyone involved – even the grown-ups! Try to read through the story in advance, to avoid any surprises that might trip you up.

2 GET COMFY

Is everyone comfortable? Can you be heard? Is there enough light? If your children are easily distracted, they can draw or play quietly while you read; they'll still reap the benefits of your storytelling.

3 HOLDING THE BOOK

You should be able to read the text and your children should be able to see both the pictures and you, too. If you hold it wide open and to the side or put it between laps, you have a free hand to point out pictures or make grand gestures.

4 GET INTO CHARACTER

Don't be embarrassed to use voices and songs, as they are a great way to bring stories to life. Go high or low or change the speed from fast to slow to show the difference between characters.

5 MIX IT UP

Changing tempo grabs attention, builds suspense or adds humour. Try slowing down or speeding up for different scenes.

6 VARY THE TONE

Contrasting your tone is good for sharing both voices and narration. Try switching from monotone to musical, and whispering can also be great fun as it feels like a secret.

7 ADD MOVEMENT/PROPS

Make your movements as big or small as you like and invite children to join in. Arms and legs can become a whole host of fantastic props!

8 MAKE IT INTERACTIVE

Involve your listeners. Ask them to repeat sentences, add sound effects, count and name what they see or guess what's coming next.

9 DISCUSS AS YOU READ

Try to relate the book to other things happening in the world. By setting an example, your listeners will become active, engaged readers who make their own connections.

10 TAKE IT TO A NEW LEVEL

Challenge children with stories above their reading level. When you get to something difficult or new, stop and repeat it slowly. Tell them what it means and give other words that mean the same thing, then use it again in another context.

Invoicing and Payments:

Thank you to the parents who continually pay their invoices on time. Can we please remind parents that payment of your invoice is due upon receipt and must be paid in full by your chosen method.

If you would like to sign up to the Direct Debit system please call the office to arrange this.

If you pay or part pay via tax free childcare vouchers it is up to you to ensure that this is setup correctly and on time for your invoice to be paid in full.

You must keep up with your childcare fees. Failure to do so may result in further late payment charges, and if this continues we may be forced to terminate your child's place and pass your account on to our debt recovery agency which will again incur further charges to you.

Nursery Development:

Our outdoor development is progressing nicely, and more work will resume in the garden as we approach the warmer weather to improve our outdoor space and opportunities.



School Transitions:

If your child is leaving us to start school in September 2021 please can you confirm your child's school place via Parent Zone. National offer day is **16th April** so you will be notified on this date from the local authority on the school your child has been allocated. ***More information will be shared and given out to all our school leaver families so we can support your child leaving nursery to go to school. Please look out for this information via email and Parent Zone.***

Spring Term Assessments:

You will receive up to date information through Parent Zone from your child's key worker with a current report of how your child is developing and progressing with their learning. You will receive this report by 16th April 2021. Normally at this time we would provide a parents opening evening and invite parents to come to nursery and chat with the staff and get current information and activity ideas to further support your child's individual learning needs. As this cannot take place your child's key worker will arrange with you an over the phone discussion, and this will be arranged via Parent Zone.

Reconfirm Your 30 Hours and Tax Free Childcare Codes:

Please remember to reconfirm your funding codes if you receive 30 hours funding or Tax Free childcare payments. If you allow the code to expire you may not receive your full entitlement!

Hungry Little Minds Campaign:

At nursery we continue to promote and focus on this campaign. Early communication, language and literacy development is a priority and is essential for children to be able to thrive and progress. We strongly focus and strive to improve children in this area of development, as statistics from the Department of Education show that children are falling behind. Studies show that extra engagement and support from parents and carers can help early learning and help set your child up for school and later life. Please visit the link below for activity ideas you can use to support your child at home. ***<https://hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk/>***

National Lockdown:

As this is our third National Lockdown since the pandemic started in March 2020, and nearly a year on many of us are facing many difficulties, challenges and anxieties from this situation.

At present, the majority of our children and families are accessing the nursery but some families are deciding to keep their children at home.

Whatever your individual circumstances may be, if you require further help and support with your child's learning and development at home please let us know.

Our staff continue to update and communicate with parents via the Parent Zone app to inform you of what your child will be learning and experiencing at nursery along with ideas and activities you can do at home.

We love to see what you have been busy doing at home so please continue to send us photos, videos and observations of your child to support what we do at nursery.

We have included some resources on our website which we hope will be useful in supporting you and your child during this time. Please visit www.thewhitehousenursery.co.uk/blog

