



Newsletter

Wednesday 27th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to welcoming our last round of new children for the academic year into school after the spring holidays. This will take us to full capacity and the nursery will be a hive of activity. We are hoping for lots of good weather so that we can maximise our use of the garden, particularly during the growing season when we like to try our hand at growing some sunflowers and veggies. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful outside space and the children are loving being outside already. However, having been observing the children's use of the environment over the last few months we have decided to reduce the size of the garden by half by erecting a picket fence down the middle over the coming holidays, so it will look a bit different when you come back. This work will be carried out as part of some other garden project work that we have planned over the summer term. We are going to be repairing and reviving our sandpit in the early part of the summer term and we are also hoping to get a small pond built in the fenced off part of the garden. Both these things will help us to extend our curriculum opportunities. Of course the pond will be well secured and only part of adult led activities. Once the garden is fenced in half we will use one part of it for our daily continuous provision and the other half will be used specifically for biking and forest school type activities, such as pond dipping! The fence will have gates in it so that when we want to, we can open the space up so that the children have full use of it.

Creating a sensory garden

As part of our garden project we would like to create a sensory space which includes features that will stimulate their senses, surfaces and objects to explore and touch and plants that stimulate the senses of sight, scent, taste and hearing. Buying plants can be an expensive business, if you would like to make a contribution of a plant for this part of the project, we would be very grateful. We are particularly looking for herbs, lavender, rosemary, thyme, mint and plants such as geranium and honeysuckle.

If you are interested in exploring what we might need more or have any of your own ideas we are always grateful to hear from you. [RHS Sensory Garden](#)

Saying goodbye..... We are sad to let you know that we will be saying goodbye to three fantastic members of staff over the coming weeks. Due to financial pressures that the nursery has been under we have had to undergo a staff restructure and as a result we are losing our two Early Years Support Workers, April Inwood and Touhida Akter. We are devastated to be saying goodbye to these two amazingly dedicated and talented members of staff. We wish them both every success in the future and very much hope that they will come back and visit us regularly. April will not return after the spring break. However Touhida will come back to work for a few weeks after the holiday.



April Inwood



Touhida Akter



Shabeena Ali is leaving us after Easter to take a promotion in another nursery.

Congratulations Shabeena! We wish you well in your new venture.



Some snap shots of the last couple of weeks:



It has been an exciting and busy term. It got off to a great start with our stay and play session in the first week back. A lovely time was had by all exploring a range of activities and experiences throughout the setting. For those of you that could not make it there will be another one next term, please find the date below.

This term we have been focusing on growing and changing. The children have enjoyed talking about growing and caring for plants in our garden. This has led to lots of discussion about what we can do to take care of our plants and environment. We have been observing changes (particularly the weather) and discussing this together. The children have enjoyed exploring the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and talking about foods they like. We all enjoyed celebrating World Book day sharing our favourite books and admiring the characters we all came dressed as. The Butterflies enjoyed a trip to the Story Museum in Oxford to explore stories further in their small worlds gallery. Over the last two weeks staff have been meeting with families for parent consultations. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us, it is wonderful to be able to talk about and celebrate your child/s achievements. Next term we will be focusing on and exploring Our Amazing World.



We are delighted to announce that we have appointed two new governors to our Comper Governing Board one parent governor and one co-opted governor.

Rosie Levermore, parent of Eli Levermore is our new parent governor and Amy Darwin parent of Cormac Costelloe is our new co-opted governor. Amy will not officially start until term 6, but Rosie has already attended her first Full Governing Board meeting this week. We are delighted to have both of you on the leadership team.



Caterpillar parents - Is your child turning 3 between now and 31st August 2024?

If so, please don't forget to complete an application form. Come and see Sophie in the office for any further information and a paper copy of the form or you can download it from the [admissions page](#) of our website, where you will also find information about our admissions.

We are currently processing our applications for September 2024 and will start offering out places for next term. We don't want anyone to be disappointed so please complete an application form if you want a place. Your 2 year old does not automatically get a place in the three year old provision.

Dates for your diary

- * End of Term 4 -Thursday 28th March. No After School Club
- * Frist day of Term 5 -Monday 15th April, usual time
- * School photos -Tuesday 11th June (more info to follow)
- * Stay and play -Friday 15th June, 9.00-10.00am.
- * Break up for Summer Holidays -Wednesday 24th July.



Your feedback is always very important to us and we like to try take into consideration your ideas when we are taking action to improve. We would be very grateful if you can take 10 minutes to fill out the parent survey that we have sent out today.

We wish you all a very lovely spring break. We hope that sun shines a bit and that you get some relaxation and recuperation time with family and friends.

We look forward to seeing you back on Monday 15th April at the usual times.

With very best wishes,

Catherine King and Sarah Weaver (Co-headteachers)

