

*Newsletter*

May - August 2025

**EVENTS**

Mothering Sunday Celebrations

We really enjoyed our lovely Mothering Sunday events. Thank you so much for such a fantastic turn out!

**Upcoming events:**

Father’s Day Event

Join us on Tuesday 17th June, 11:00-12:00pm, for ice cream and to play in our garden. Daddies, Step dads, Uncles and Grandads are all welcome to join us.

Annual Family Fun Day

This year our annual Family Fun Day will held on Tuesday 13th August from 10am – 12pm. We will have a variety of exciting activities and experiences on offer. As always, there will be ice creams and nutritious snacks on offer for all!

Annual Summer Closure

Our annual closure week is coming up in August to allow our staff to have a well deserved break.

We will close from Monday 18th August and reopen at 7:30am on Tuesday 26th August.

**New funding offer**

**Updated Opening Hours**

As you are all aware, from April 2024 our opening hours changed to 7:30am-5:30pm.

**Nursery Curriculum**

We are enjoying using the fantastic nursery curriculum we created as a team. It continues to be a working document that we are adding to occasionally when we identify gaps. We hope you have found it useful to better understand the ‘intent’ or the ‘what’ we hope children will learn in our care.

**Sun Protection**

As we move towards warmer weather please provide your child a hat, preferably one which covers their ears and neck.  If it is likely to be a warm day, we would ask that you apply some sun cream to your child before they arrive.  We will then reapply later in the day.

If you are happy for your child to use our sun cream, you do not need to send in an individual bottle. We will be using the Which! Best Buy recommended product which is ‘Boots Soltan Kids Protect and Moisturise Suncare Lotion SPF50+’.

Please let us know if you intend to provide your own.

**Intergenerational Links**

We are delighted to have visited Kington Court again this year. We really enjoy spending time with the residents and see the benefits of intergenerational work.

We will be going back to visit the residents at Kington Court this term for another intergeneration session.

**Clothing**

As you all know, we love exploring outdoors, making beautiful creations and eating independently. Inevitably these fantastic experiences come with an amount of mess so we are reminding parents to send their child to nursery in clothes that can get mucky (not their best clothes!).

Please could you provide your child with a waterproof coat for nursery. We enjoy the outdoors in all weathers!

Please, please label your child’s clothing with their name.

**Footwear**

We would be most grateful if children Piano Room could come to nursery in footwear that they can put on themselves, especially at 3.30pm when we have lots of children getting ready to go home.

**Parents Open Evening**

On Wednesday 17th July we will be at nursery from 5:30pm-7:30pm. This is an opportunity for you to come in and have a look around the nursery and book a timeslot to discuss your child’s progress. Our Level 3 Apprentices will be joining us to contribute to the discussions, we hope that this will help them to learn how to build positive parent partnerships.

Please email us if you wish to attend and we will allocate a timeslot.

**Green Group Leavers**

As always, we will be asking the children how they wish to celebrate their time at Little Orchard Nursery before their transition to reception class. We will let the children decide what they would like to do. We haven’t started the discussions yet as we feel it is too soon, however, once they have decided, we will let the parents know.

**School Transition Procedure**

As we approach the end of term, we would like to inform parents of how we support the transition to school. As well as the children going for taster sessions at their schools, we will do a detailed hand over with the reception teachers from each primary school and invite them to come into nursery to meet the children.

**Supervised Toothbrushing**

Our Green and Red Group children continue to follow the Supervised Toothbrushing scheme. This is a daily opportunity to promote toothbrushing and oral health.

**30 Days Wild**

We have signed up to The Wildlife Trusts #30DaysWild. This will be a whole nursery topic for the month of June and some of July. It will provide the children with lots of outdoor experiences that focus on wildlife and the natural world.

**Healthy tots award**

We have signed up to participate in Hereford’s PH award for early years Healthy Tots. There will be more information to follow.

**Early Education Funding (EEF)**

Early Education Funding (EEF) is the new term for the previous Nursery Education Funding (NEF).

In April, the Government rolled out 15hrs of EEF during term time for two year olds which we signed up to offer. In September, this is due to be extended to babies in the term after they turn nine months old.

To find out if you are eligible for the funding, please explore the ‘Childcare Choices’ website.

**Staffing Update**

Our designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs) are Ruth Price and Jess Vassalo. Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENCo) is Deborah Hulin.

**Recent Staff Training**

Ms Hulin - Behaviour management, Fire Marshall training, Fire Safety, Online Safety, Illness and Infection Control, Fabricated Illness, Food Safety.

Miss Ruth Illness and Infection Control, Online Safety, Child Sexual Exploitation.

Amanda Rowlatt – Fire Marshall training, Fire Safety, Portage, Child Sexual Exploitation, Illness and infection Control, Domestic Abuse, Fabricated Illness.

Jess Vassallo – Portage, Food Safety, Fabricated Illness, Child Sexual Exploitation.

Charmaine Carey, Child Sexual Exploitation, Illness and Infection Control.

Vicky Hunt, Domestic Abuse, Illness and Infection Control

Brenda Williams, Child Sexual Exploitation, Online Safety, Domestic Abuse, Illness and Infection Control.

Kirsty Layton, Safe Guarding, Fabricated Illness, Witchcraft,

ERIC Let’s Go Potty, Ms Hulin, Miss Ruth, Charmaine, Jess, Brenda, Amanda, Vicky, Sue.

**Staff News**

We are delighted to welcome our new staff Kirsty, Holly, Lizzie and Leanne. Kirsty and Hollie will be completing their apprenticeships to achieve a Level 3 Early Years Educator Qualification with us; Kirsty has already made fantastic progress. Lizzie and Leanne will be starting in June both have excellent experience in Early Years Education and Lizzie has lots of experience working in a Baby Room.

Louise who the children know from Pyjama Drama will also be working with us temporarily supporting our Garden and Piano room children.

We would like to send Charmaine and Vicky huge congratulations and best wishes as they are currently on maternity leave with their beautiful new babies. We are looking forward to meeting their new arrivals.

We would also like to wish Amy all the best in her new job.

**Nursery Closures**

We will remain open, with the exception of bank holidays, but will close for a week in the summer and a week at Christmas.

**Funding Term Dates for children in receipt of Nursery Education Funding**

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| **Term Dates** | **Summer Term 2025** |
| **Term ends** | England – Friday 18th July (for children funded by Herefordshire Council)Wales - Friday 18th July (For children funded by the Wales Early Years Offer) |

Just a little reminder that hot lunches are only available during term time. Healthy light lunches will be provided during all holidays.

