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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to Nursery, hope you all had a fab Christmas & New Year.

We are so thankful to all of you for your amazing support in 2024, for all the kind words, for being such a fab part of our Nursery family & for all the lovely cards & gifts we received at Christmas. It really does mean lots!

This half term we are learning about winter time & the Arctic, Chinese New Year, Transport, Dinosaurs & Valentines Day. We are particularly excited for Transport week, where the Sunshine Room children will have their fab trip to Witham on the train! More information on that one to follow.

### **Getting Ready For School / School Applications -**

Your applications for school should be nearly all done now, with the closing date on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. You do not need to submit four choices, but I would advise submitting at least two. Some of you will have siblings at Primary Schools already, therefore you will be more likely to get into your first choice chosen school, but it is always advisable to err on the side of caution.

You can use the following link - [Primary school places - Essex County Council](#)

You will be asked to set up an account with the Essex Education Portal. You will be notified which school you've been successful for via email, or by logging on to the website on the 16<sup>th</sup> April.

***Please could you let me know which school you have applied for as your child's first choice by replying to this email. We start the all important transition conversations with each school before publication, to ensure all children are as prepared & as ready as they can be.***

Any questions, please do feel free to get in touch & I'll do my best to help.

This week in your child's bag there will be information on Jolly Phonics. Each week will see Sounds of the Week, which we will focus on in our learning & your child will receive a little homework activity sheet to do at home with you. We now start the preparation for school in full. We will be writing, working on the correct pen control, recapping & learning shapes, colours & numbers, practising & perfecting listening skills, reading stories & working on self-care, like toileting, remembering to wash our hands properly & putting on our own clothes / coats & doing up zips. There will be some more cooking & Auntie Terri will be whipping up a storm in the kitchen with some more hot dinners! There will also be some trips out, like trips along the Flitch Way & the trip on the train.

### **Sickness -**

We have the delight of the normal January sicknesses at the moment, the back to school germs! We would appreciate you double checking our sickness poster, which I have attached in case your child is unwell. We know we all have busy lives & having a child off sick can be frustrating for us working parents, but please be mindful that Nursery isn't the best place for a poorly little person. If you've had to give them Calpol in the morning, are they well enough to be here when that wears off? Please see a doctor or pharmacist if you're not sure, there are some viral rashes going around at the moment, which could be contagious. Boots Pharmacy also offer a consultancy if you cannot get an appointment at the doctors. We would like to keep the staff as well as they can too, so bear this in mind please. Thank you.

### **Snow -**

In the unlikely(!) event we have any more snow please be aware that we will endeavour to stay open. A few staff will be able to walk in, so the only reason we would close would be if the heating were to cut out or we didn't have enough staff in each room. If this happens an update will be posted on our Facebook page & we will email you all. We encourage you all to put a change of shoes/slippers in their bag for the children in wet weather - wet shoes make the floor slippery & will dirty the floor, plus often children kneeling down to play end up with wet bottoms!

### **Doors -**

Frustratingly the Nursery partition doors that split the main hall in half have broken over the Christmas holidays. The church have installed some temporary partitions for us, so we can keep the two rooms separate & have as little disruption as possible. The bolts on the tops of the doors will all need to be replaced, which will be a whole day job & again the church will ensure there are rooms for us to use so we don't have to close.

### **Breakfast Club -**

We have spaces available in our breakfast club. This starts at 8:30 and is £4 for the half an hour. Children sit with an Auntie & enjoy a variety of cereals, toast & occasionally the odd treat, like pancakes, fruits & pastries. We are also able to start earlier, if need be, should you need to get to work & this can be discussed individually. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please get in touch.

### **Attendance & Late Collection -**

All settings in our local area have been advised to check the Safeguarding Policies regarding your child's attendance at Nursery. We know that attending Nursery isn't compulsory, but it is advised that when a child is on our register, we have a duty to safeguard them & note any unexpected absences.

Therefore, could you please notify me when your child is going to be absent. If this is for a holiday or planned day out, please let me know in advance. If it is for a medical appointment or they are poorly, please notify me on the morning of the absence, before 9 am. Should they be unwell for several days, please let me know each day they will not be in. Thank you.

Please also remember there is a charge should you be late collecting your child, as per our terms & conditions. We will waive the first late collection, but will need to charge you if it happens again -

**"In the event of late collection of your child on a frequent basis we will charge £5 for the first 15 minutes after allocated collection time & a further £5 for every five minutes**

**thereafter. This will cover staffing costs for those that stay with your child. This will be invoiced to you."**

### **Labelling & Uniform -**

We are a fairly large Nursery, with over 70 children. We have a lot of bags, a lot of coats, cardigans, drinks bottles, lunch boxes, jumpers..... we really need everything labelled with your child's name please. If nothing is labelled it takes us a while to get things ready as we try & establish what belongs to who! Thank you.

We do have some lovely warm fleeces & jumpers available as part of our uniform, so if you want to purchase some extra for this time of year, please just drop us an email. I have attached the Uniform Poster so you can see prices & sizes.

### **Sibling Starters –**

We are really lucky to have parents who choose to bring all their children to us & it is lovely to keep in touch with families. We have a waiting list already for September & beyond, so it's never too early to get your little one's name down on that list. If you have a younger sibling who you would like to join us & continue to be part of our Nursery family, just pop us an email & we can get them enrolled.

### **Parking –**

Please remember there is no room for parking at the front of the building. This is a shared building, where constant access is needed for the church. Please do not also try & drop off or pick up by swinging in at the front or on the road as it's such a busy road. Sunshine Room parents also line up along the front of the church, so pulling in would make it extremely dangerous. Also, the carpark next door for the new houses is private property & we have been contacted by them on several occasions to remind you not to park there – there is

### **Facebook –**

We have an active Facebook page, where we share news, updates, activities & notices. As above, if we ever need to close or have an emergency, this will be where information will be added first, before you're all emailed. Please ensure you like our page so you see the regular updates. Our weekly plans are also added here each Monday morning, so you know what your children will be learning in the week ahead.

[www.facebook.com/christchurchpreschoolnursery](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchpreschoolnursery)

### **Easy Fundraising!**

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Christchurch Nursery with

**#easyfundraising!**

If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. All you do is head to the easyfundraising webpage first, click the shop you want to buy from & it takes you there. Then when you've purchased it automatically gives us some money. Last year we raised nearly £50, which might not seem much, but does so much good.

7,100 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you!

Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up below & share today.

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/christchurch-nursery/?invite=CGENJV%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/christchurch-nursery/?invite=CGENJV%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

**Term Dates for 2025 -**

**Back to Nursery - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.**

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.**

**Back to Nursery - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.**

**EASTER HOLIDAY – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April.**

**Back to Nursery – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.**

**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY – NURSERY CLOSED ON MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY.**

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June.**

**Back to Nursery – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July.**

**NON PUPIL DAYS – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July & Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.**

**DATE TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER, TO BE CONFIRMED LATER IN THE YEAR.**

**Contact Us –**

As always, if there's anything you would like to discuss we are here to help. If you need to get in touch out of Nursery hours, or have a quick message, for example, your child's absence, please private message us on Facebook or email us & we will get back in touch.

Thank you for all your continued parental support, here's to a fun 2025!

Claire & all the Nursery Aunties xx