

RETURNED TO NURSERY –
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

BREAK FOR OCTOBER HALF TERM –
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

RETURN TO NURSERY –
MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

BREAK FOR CHRISTMAS –
THURSDAY 10TH DECEMBER



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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Christchurch Nursery! We hope you all had a lovely, if a little hot, summer!

We are delighted to welcome lots of new children & their families to our Rainbow Room and of course welcome back our lovely little Raindrops to their new room!



Starting Nursery is an exciting time. It was lovely to meet all the new families at our taster day. We focus all our attention on getting the children settled & happy in the first few weeks. We are here for you & your little ones, so please do talk to us or get in touch if you're feeling worried or apprehensive about anything. We will be having some formal "Meet & Greets" with you which will be in October / November. You will receive more information on this in due course.

We are also so happy to welcome back our big children to Sunshine Room and welcome some new families to start their learning journeys with us. We are really proud of them, coming in on their own into their new room & doing brilliantly!! We will also be arranging "Meet & Greet" times with your new keyworkers, which will start in October. You will receive more information on this very soon.



Staffing –

We are very lucky to have a strong staffing team, with a superb band of Aunties. We were really sad to say goodbye to our Auntie Laura N, who had been with us for 10 years and who played an important role in Nursery as Sunshine Room Leader and part of our Senior Management Team. We will miss her very much and wish her well in her new endeavour. We are also super happy to have Auntie Katherine back in for more days and to be a keyworker and not just MDA.

Sickness / Attendance –

We have already sent you all our sickness policy posters, but please find them attached again for your reference. Please refer to these if your little one is poorly / needs calpol / has been prescribed antibiotics. We appreciate you being mindful that Nursery is not the right place for a poorly little person and considerate when deciding whether or not to send them in. We have also shared our Attendance Policy with you, which we appreciate you also adhering to.

Uniform –

We have had a lovely uptake on uniform already this year and have run out of a lot of it, so have placed another order. Please email if you would like to order, the fleeces and hoodies are super for winter! We also have lovely handmade bows, which can be seen on the uniform poster attached to your email. These are made & can be personalised by the lovely Jenny at **Barnets & Bows**. Please ask for details.

Parents Committee –

We have a Parents Committee who support us with fundraising & special events. We currently have a vacancy for this, so if you're interested, please drop us an email for more information.

Snack/ Healthy Eating –

We have a snack break each session, where we provide a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables and other snack items for the children to choose. If your child stays for lunch, you'll have had a lunch poster which shows you the things we would like to see in their lunchboxes. Please be reminded we are a **NUT FREE** Nursery. Thank you all.

It is still lovely to be a part of your children's birthday celebrations & we know that some parents like to bring in something for all the children to share on that special day. However, as part of the new Government 'Healthy Choices' Reforms, we do not accept Haribo / chewy sweets to be given out. If you would like to bring something to share, a cake that we can cut up and share together at snack and that adheres to our allergies would be super.

Nursery Photos –

We are having Nursery photos taken on Friday 6th November with our lovely Nursery photographer, Sally Parkinson who runs a photography studio in Braintree. She will be taking the children's photos in one side of the room we use for Raindrops from 10:30 am until 1:30pm. More information on this will follow soon.

New Gate –

We are very pleased with our brand new gate, which was fitted for us in the summer holidays. This provides extra safety for us and during session times will be locked. Please help us look after our gate by carefully closing it behind you and not letting it slam. The pathway is like a wind tunnel on a windy day and if it catches the gate it will bang with some force - this happened to our old gate and it needed repairing often. Thank you all.

Topics & Trips –

We have a lovely selection of topics planned for Autumn, including All About Me, Weather, Elmer, Autumn, Harvest and Hibernation. We love to take the children out on trips & have some smashing ones planned already! Sunshine Room will be using the Flitch Way for Wellie & Autumn Walks and will be popping to the Library for our very own Rhyme Times! Rainbow Room will also venture out at the end of the term, exploring Autumn on the Flitch Way together. We use walk-o-diles to keep the children safe, strapping them all in together in small groups. We are also always over staffed for trips & work on a 1:2 ratio in Rainbow Room & 1:3 in Sunshine Room.

Labelling –

This has been mentioned already, but we would like to reiterate again that labelling your children's belongings is massively important. There are several bags and bottles the same, plus there's so many coats, bags and lunch boxes it's taking a while to get the children ready to go home. We would rather spend more time singing, dancing, playing, reading and then helping your children get themselves ready. Please ensure your child brings a bag with them, so we've got somewhere to put any letters, leaflets and their creations.

Also, in very wet weather / snow we ask that you put another pair of soft shoes or slippers in your child's bag so that they don't need to stay in wet shoes, boots or wellies all day. It makes our floors very dirty. Please ensure that extra footwear is named.

Facebook Page –

Our Facebook page is updated weekly. Pop over each Monday to check out what we are up to. Sometimes messages to parents are added, especially when it gets to Winter & we may need to give you information about coming in. [Christchurch Pre-School Nursery | Facebook](#) Don't forget to like / follow the page so it comes up on your news feed!

Tapestry –

We hope you've enjoyed seeing the first updates on Tapestry for your children. As explained over the summer, we are focused on settling your children, so you might not get something every session, but we will do our best. Sunshine Room Aunties generally upload something once a week, which will be quite detailed with all the lovely things they have been up to. The Aunties would love to see you adding things at home too, so if you go out over the weekend, or go on holiday and would like to show us, please have a go at uploading some photos! You can head to our website, in the Parents Corner section, which shows you how to upload - [Parent's Corner | Christchurch Pre-School Nursery](#)

Parking –

Please remember there is no parking in the front of the church – this includes stopping to run down & drop off too. Also, please do not park in the housing area next door – we have already emailed you about this one and really appreciate your help to keep the peace!

Fundraising –

We are part of **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!

[Christchurch Nursery Fundraising | Easyfundraising](#)

Buggies –

We cannot have buggies in our outside area as it's so small & the children need as much room as they can to play. You can fold them up & put them in the arches in between the two gates, or to the side of our shed around the other side. Please remember that these are left at your own risk.

Sunshine Room Collections –

Please be reminded that when you drop your children off & when you pick them up, you need to line up all the front church wall. Access is needed to the turning circle by the church at all times. If you're standing in the entrance to the turning circle & a car comes in it becomes very dangerous if they swing in quickly. London Road is a really busy road. Two years ago, we sadly witnessed a very scary large accident, where a lady from the church was knocked over resulting in severe injuries which led to her being hospitalised for many months. It demonstrated that the road can be very dangerous. If you're lined up waiting along the church wall, we know we are keeping you as safe as we can.

Sibling Starters –

We are really lucky to have a lovely waiting list for future years. If you have a smaller child we would love to have them with us at Nursery and keep that relationship with your family. If you haven't done so already, please drop us an email to get them on the waiting list! We have a fairly sizeable list for Raindrops Room in October & January & for September 2027 & beyond, so it's never too early!

We work on word of mouth to get new families into Nursery, very rarely do we need to advertise. If you see a post on Facebook asking for recommendations, please comment with our name, it would mean lots!

Christmas Fayre –

We are really looking forward to our Nursery Christmas Fayre! This always is well attended and a lot of fun. We will have Nursery games and stalls, tombolas, a big raffle with some brilliant prizes, and some small business showcasing and selling their lovely creations. We will also have a very special Father Christmas Grotto, where children can meet the man in red and receive a present. This will all be on **Saturday 21st November, from 1-4pm**. We would really love you all to come! All funds raised will go towards our outside area, as we would like to have a new cover structure built for outside, so we can access outside play all year round!



Can you help? Also, as part of the Fayre, we look for donations for our tombolas please –

***Teddies / cuddly toys** for our Teddy Tombola

***Gifts** for our Gift Tombola

***Bottles** for our Bottle Tombola (any type of bottle, including bath foams, smellies, sauces and bottled drinks, including soft drinks, squashes or something a little stronger!)

***Treats** for our Treat Tombola (chocolates, biscuits, cakes).

We are also looking for **donations to our raffle**, so anything to go in our Christmas food hamper (like mince pies, sauces, Christmas chocolates or biscuits), vouchers or special treats. Anything is gratefully received and we don't expect you to go out and spend a fortune, any help is amazing.

Small Businesses If you have a small business or know of someone who does, who might be interested in joining us, we do have some spaces. Please just pop us an email and we can send over details.

Dates for your Diary –

Our topic dates can be found on our website, under Parents Corner - [Parent's Corner | Christchurch Pre-School Nursery](#)

These are just some of the special things we are up to in our first full term!

October – Sunshine Room Meet & Greets (more to follow)

October – Start of Rainbow Room Meet & Greets (more to follow)

Friday 16th & Monday 19th October – New Raindrops Tasters

Friday 23rd October – Last Day of Half Term

Monday 2nd November – Return to Nursery/Continuing Meet & Greets/
First Day of Raindrops

Friday 6th November – Nursery Photos – 10:30-1:30 in Raindrops Room

Saturday 21st November – 1-4 pm Nursery Christmas Fayre!

Tuesday 1st December – Rainbow Room Nativity (9:30 am) (more information to follow).

Monday 7th December – 12:30 – 2:30 – Sunshine Room Nativity Rehearsal (more info to follow).

Tuesday 8th December – Sunshine Room Nativity (9am) (more information to follow).

Thursday 10th December - LAST DAY OF TERM!

Friday 11th December – Christmas Party Day! **9:30 – 11:30** – Rainbow Room,
12:30 – 2:30 – Sunshine Room – every child is invited!
(more information to follow).

Monday 4th January 2027 – Back to Nursery.

Keeping in Touch -

You can contact us by email – christchurchnursery2019@outlook.com or visit our Facebook page – www.facebook.com/christchurchpreschoolnursery - here you can check out what we are up to each week, look at photos of displays & activities, leave a review & read some lovely comments from other parents, plus it's a great method of contact should you want a prompt reply or need to discuss a private matter. You can register absences by these methods too.

Also, don't forget to add our Website to your favourites!

There's lots of information here, including our policies for you to read, photos of trips in our community, meet the Aunties, amazing reviews from parents past & present, a how to guide for uploading your Tapestry observations, plus lots more!

Head there now! www.christchurchnursery-braintree.co.uk

Our wish is for Nursery to be a happy place where are families are confident knowing we are doing our best for their children. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please let us know. Even if you think it's silly, please speak to us, we would rather put your mind at rest. It's also lovely to hear about the things you do like!!

Thank you for your continued support,

Claire & all the Nursery Aunties xx