

The Orchard Nursery

Updates and Reminders

SEPTEMBER 2023

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FOR THE DIARY:

- Deborah Hurst will be taking photos on: 18th October 2023
- Half Term – W/b Monday 23rd October 2023
- Christmas break – All year round and Stretched Funded children: 25th December 23 - 2nd January 24 – Nursery Closed.
- Christmas break – Term Time only children: 15th December 23 – 5th January 24.
- Friday 22nd December – closing at 6pm

Welcome Back....

We would like to welcome back all our children after a long break; it's great to see everyone again. We'd also like to offer an extra special "Orchard" welcome to all our new children that have started with us. We're already seeing them settle down into their new routines and making relationships with their peers.

Please look out for our monthly updates and reminders via email and please like our Facebook and Instagram pages, as we often put recent activities and events coming up.

Please don't forget to check eyLog (online learning journey) via email notifications and download the latest eyLog app. We also love seeing observations from home or at the local park. Just click on new observation, take a photo and send to nursery.

How to add an observation on eyLog....

- A learning journey should be a holistic view of your child's progress and can be if you, as parents, also contribute to it through observations at home. Using eyLog, you can add your own observations of your child easily at any time through your Parent Portal, which will then be reviewed by the nursery practitioners.
- From the Learning Journey, click on the '**Add Observation**' button.
- The Add Observation screen allows you to upload photos and provide a description of an activity you have observed the child doing at home. To add photos, click '**Choose Photos**'. You can also add a video.
- Activities at home could include taking their first steps, counting the stairs up to bed. A certificate achieved at an activity club eg swimming/ ballet/gymnastics etc. Riding a bike for the first time. Enjoying a walk along the beach or playing in the park. It could also include going on holiday, or making cakes at home with a family member.
- We love seeing these observations you do with your child at home, and the staff often show the children their photograph when at nursery. It encourages discussions to take place and builds confidence.
- The week before your child's 'focus week' the staff will send you an observation through eyLog called "Planning for your child's learning journey" to complete. It will be informing you what your child's next step is and asking if there are any significant events happening in your child's life and if there are any questions you would like to know about your child's progress and development. It's at this time we would love to see more observations from home.

Children's accident forms on eyLog....

Please can we ask/remind parents to acknowledge the accident form on eyLog if your child has an accident whilst at nursery.

Staff will always give you details of the nature of the accident at the end of their session and ask you to sign a paper form, however we also need the form signed off on eyLog as well.

When you receive a notification of your child's accident it will ask you to '**Confirm you have read the report**'. You must then tick the box and press **Submit**.

Is your child due to start school in September 2024?

Was your child born between 1st Sept 2019 and 31st August 2020?

You need to apply for your chosen school by:-

Creating an account online and submitting an online admissions form or downloading a paper form.

If you live in Bournemouth, Poole or Christchurch click on the link below to apply online.

[BCP SCHOOL APPLICATION](#) Go to 'apply online' or 'download our application'

If you live under Dorset Council, click on the link below to apply.

[DORSET SCHOOL APPLICATION](#)

Closing date for applications is: **15th January 2024**

Schools in the area will be holding open days over this term to help when deciding which schools to apply for.

We will be putting any information we receive about open days on our Facebook page or by email.

The Orchard Nursery

Updates and Reminders

Sept 2023 Continued.....

Christmas Performance....

We know it's a little early, but we're already starting to think about Christmas!

This year we are organising a Christmas sing-a-long. There will be 2 separate sing-a-longs. One for the 2-4's and one for the babies.

SAVE THE DATE....

For Apples and Pears (Children aged between 2-4 years old) This will be held on **Wednesday 13th December at 2pm** in Christ the King Church. More details to follow nearer the time

For babies – This will be held on **Thursday 14th December at 4.30pm** in Christ the King Church Parish lounge.

For both sessions we will be inviting parents to sit with their child for a good old Christmas sing-a-long to get in the Christmas spirit. If your child is already booked in on the days you will be invited to come along to sit with them. If your child is not booked in for the session you will be invited to bring them along to sit with you to join in the singing. We will also be having musical instruments to play and tinsel to wave. Staff will be bringing around a tasty mince pie.

COVID

We are aware that cases are on the increase again.

We have had a number of covid cases reported to the nursery over the last 3 weeks.

Please can we ask that if your child has any COVID symptoms, can you either keep them off nursery or conduct an LFT (Lateral Flow Test) and let the nursery know. We have LFT's at the nursery if you would like one.

We understand that children will be getting the common cold as we creep into the winter months, but would urge you to still test your child as the symptoms are very similar.

Our priority attendance procedure will remain in place should our staffing become compromised due to high case numbers.

In this situation we will be limited as to how many children we can cater for, due to some staff needing to isolate. Therefore, we will have to prioritise the following groups of children in this order:-

1. Vulnerable Children
2. Children of key worker parents
3. Children of working parents.
4. Children of Non-working parents

If you have any questions or are unsure if you need to conduct a test, please contact us and we can discuss individual cases.

Our Covid Safety Measures are laid out [HERE](#)

Deborah Hurst Photography...

Deborah Hurst will be taking photos on
Wednesday 18th October 2023.

**These make excellent Christmas presents.
We will be organising an appointment system
nearer the time.**

Nursery Holiday Dates for 2023 - 2024

Term time Only children

Autumn term	4 September 2023 to 15 December 2023
Half term	23 October 2023 to 27 October 2023
Christmas holiday	18 December 2023 to 5 January 2024
Spring term	8 January 2024 to 29 March 2024
Half term	12 February 2024 to 16 February 2024
Easter holiday	1 April 2024 to 12 April 2024
Summer term	15 April 2024 to 19 July 2024
Half term	27 May 2024 to 31 May 2024
Summer holiday	From 22 July 2024

All Year round and Stretch Funded Children

Autumn term	4 September 2023 to 22 December 2023
Christmas Closure	25 December to 1 January 2024
Spring term	2 January 2024 to 29 March 2024
Summer term	1 April 2024 to 2 September 2024

Bank holiday's (Nursery Closed)

- Christmas Day: 25 December
- Boxing Day: 26 December
- New Year's Day: 1 January
- Good Friday: 29 March
- Easter Monday: 1 April
- May Day bank holiday: 6 May
- Spring bank holiday: 27 May
- Summer bank holiday: 26 August.