

January Newsletter
Friday 22nd January 2021



Headteacher's Message:

Welcome back everyone and a Happy New Year!

It may not have been the way we planned to start 2021, but positive changes are on the horizon - the infection rate is steadily dropping in our area, the vaccination is being rolled out across the country and our children remain happy - all things to be grateful for!

I would like to thank everybody for the warm welcome I have received. I am extremely proud to be the new Headteacher of Cippenham Nursery School and to be leading and working alongside such a dedicated team of well trained and highly experienced staff. A special thank you in particular is extended to Mrs Li who is currently 'showing me the ropes' to ensure that we continue to deliver the highest quality of learning and development for each child. Without the staff's continuing commitment and enthusiasm in these unprecedented times, our Nursery would be a very different place. Please remember this and say an enormous thank you to them the next time you see them. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Governors, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support us and ensure that we are safe and well and that learning and teaching remains our highest priority.

I look forward to working in partnership with you all, and hopefully being able to see your faces soon (and you mine!) once all restrictions have been lifted. In the meantime, we will simply have to continue to say a quick hello at the gate.



Birthdays:

Special birthday wishes this month to:

Akshat, Sai Malhar, Adhip, Jiya, Maya and Abdul-Hakeem.



Home Learning:

Although the Nursery remains open throughout the national lockdown, we understand what a difficult decision it is to take regarding attendance. In addition to face-to-face teaching at the Nursery, we will also be providing Home Learning activities for those children who are not attending regularly.

At Cippenham Nursery School, we understand the need to continually deliver high quality education, whether for an individual, child or many. We recognise the importance of maintaining high expectations in all areas of school life and ensuring that all children have access to the learning resources and support they need to succeed. Home learning will provide opportunities to learn through play using everyday resources, mirroring the practice within the continuous provision at Nursery. Play is the best way for children to learn during their time at home. As your child's first educator, your communication and interactions with them will help them thrive and feel secure during these uncertain times.

Home learning activities can be found in 'Curriculum' under the 'Home Learning' tab on the Nursery website. There are a selection of activities for your child to engage in with your support. These will be updated regularly.

We expect all children to engage in home learning if they are unable to attend their regular Nursery session and ask that completed work is uploaded to Tapestry, where your child's Key Person will make regular comments and identify next steps for them to pursue in their learning. Please be patient, as staff will also be teaching at the Nursery, so there is no guarantee that communication will be made daily.



Website Development:

We are currently working on developing our Nursery website. We have recently added a 'Coronavirus' button to the Home Page. Here, you will find the most up-to-date national and local guidance, as well as our Covid-19 Risk Assessments.

Please do keep 'checking in' to view the latest developments. I will of course inform you of any further changes that have been made in the future.

RSPB Big Garden Bird Count:

I'm sure you have seen the adverts on TV for this annual event. As an Eco-School, we are always looking for ways to encourage our children to connect with nature, as research has shown this increases physical, mental and social health.

Engaging in natural activities, gives our children the opportunity to find their personal place in the world, build stronger environmental attitudes and take an active part in sustaining the natural environment and their own community.

The event takes place between Friday 29th January 2021 and Sunday 31st January 2021.

Please follow the link below to join in at home. All the instructions and resources are included on the webpage:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

It would be wonderful to receive photographs of children and their families joining in with this activity and see any work inspired by the event (E.g. Drawings, models, collages etc.) Please support your child in learning the names of the garden birds they spot and giving them a simple description.

Voluntary Contributions:

As we have started a new term may we kindly remind those parents who prefer to donate termly that a term's contribution is £24. We would appreciate your help in remembering to contribute weekly (£2) or termly. There is a money box provided in each classroom. Thank you!



Punctuality:

Please make every effort to arrive on time for the start of each session, particularly during these unprecedented times and not crossing bubbles, to avoid infection. Gates shut at 8.50am and 12.40pm. By arriving late your child misses valuable teaching time and you will have to wait until the introduction session has finished before your child can be admitted as a late arrival.

Just a Thought...

"Challenges are what makes life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." - Joshua J. Marine

I wish you a safe and happy weekend. Take care and stay safe!
With every best wish,

B. Dowling

Mrs Basia Dowling
Headteacher

Dates for your diary:

RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch	Friday 29 th January 2021 - Sunday 31 st January 2021
Children's Mental Health Week	Monday 1 st February 2021 - Friday 5 th February 2021
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 9 th February 2021
Chinese New Year - Year of the Ox	Friday 12 th February 2021
HALF TERM (NURSERY CLOSED)	Monday 15th February 2021 - Friday 19th February 2021
Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)	Tuesday 16 th February 2021
World Book Day	Thursday 4 th March 2021
Mothering Sunday	Sunday 14 th March 2021
Global Recycling Day	Thursday 18 th March 2021
Comic Relief	Friday 19 th March 2021
Spring Term Holiday (NURSERY CLOSED)	Friday 2nd April 2021
Children return to Nursery for start of Summer Term	Monday 19 th April 2021
St George's Day	Friday 23 rd April 2021
May Day Bank Holiday (NURSERY CLOSED)	Monday 3rd May 2021
Photographer (Class Group Photos)	Friday 14 th May 2021
World Bee Day	Thursday 20 th May 2021
Outdoor Classroom Day	Friday 21 st May 2021
HALF TERM (NURSERY CLOSED)	Monday 31st May 2021 - Friday 4th June 2021
World Wellbeing Week	Monday 21 st June 2021 - Friday 25 th June 2021
Last Day of Academic Year	Wednesday 21 st July 2021

The safeguarding of children is of the utmost importance, If you have any cause for concern, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Team:

Mrs Dowling & Mrs Li - Safeguarding Leads
Mrs Gill - Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mr Hodges - Safeguarding Governor