

# Chippenham Little Pips Nursery

## Newsletter



### Save the Date

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October**  
**6pm-7:30pm Parents**  
**evening** - more details  
 below.

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September –**  
**MacMillan coffee**  
**morning**

The great Cake  
 Takeaway!

**Week beginning**  
**28.09.2020 Harvest**

**Festival Collection**

This year we will once again be supporting the Doorway Project in Chippenham which helps families who need help with food. We will share more details nearer the time but thank you in advance for any help you can offer with this.

Well the Spring did not turn out quite as we had hoped! However, despite the many challenges that we have all faced over the last few months, we are very proud of our incredible staff who have helped us to keep everything going and to support our children, parents and each other.

We have all learnt the art of Zoom, conducting staff meetings whilst juggling home commitments, overcoming the crushing embarrassment of videoing ourselves reading stories and singing and still managing to laugh and smile through it all.

So now we are relieved that some sense of normality is slowly returning. Through it all, the stars of the show have been our amazing children who have embraced new routines and procedures with their never-ending enthusiasm and excitement.

We have loved seeing all of the wonderful things our children have been doing at home, even whilst many of you were trying to work and keep the home running. We have been amazed at how well your children have returned to nursery and also how much they have developed in a few months. We have been so proud of the children of our key workers who have achieved so much and have continued to amaze us with their boundless enthusiasm.

Whilst spring and summer are wonderful times of the year, there is always a slight sadness tinged with immense pride, as we say farewell to our oldest little pips, our Graduates, as they start the next stage of their journey into Big School. More on that later on.

For now, we know many of you will want to know what is happening going forward so we hope this newsletter will be helpful and informative.



Most of our news comes through Family  now so do keep checking the news feed for the most up to date bits of information.

Thank you as always for your support!

### Our Wonderful Graduates:

It is hard to believe that our oldest little pips are already so close to starting their Big Schools, but this week, despite all of the challenges of the last few months, they sang their farewell song with gusto and proudly received their Graduation certificates.

They have continued to amaze us over the last year with their enthusiasm and incredible absorption of information and development of key skills. We are proud to say that they are all ready for the next exciting part of their journey and would like to wish both our graduates and parents of graduates, the very best for the future. Please stay in touch and keep us updated!



## Review of Covid-19 Risk Assessment for Little Pips Nursery



On July the 20<sup>th</sup>, the government confirmed revised measures and guidance for Early Years Settings in response to the Covid-19 situation. This guidance outlined some relaxation of rules around the mixing of 'bubbles' and numbers of children along with other guidelines.

As a nursery, we consistently review our risk assessments and procedures. In light of the amended government guidance we have decided on the following:

- ✓ We will continue to maintain our bubbles, keeping the different age groups in separate rooms for the time being.
- ✓ We will start to reintroduce more 'messy play' resources such as shaving foam, gloop and sand.

The other routines and procedures which have been implemented since Covid-19 including the additional cleaning throughout the day and the drop offs and pick ups at the door, will continue in the same way. We are taking a very cautious approach to ensure our children, staff and you our parents are as protected as possible. However, we are acutely aware that the restriction of resources has been challenging for our staff. Whilst they have been amazingly creative with their activities, we are all looking forward to broadening our spectrum of learning again. Of course, with all new measures, health and safety will be at the forefront and we continue to be guided by all regulatory and advisory bodies.

### Parents Evening – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of October 6-7:30pm:

We place great importance on welcoming our parents to the nursery to celebrate the children's amazing progress and development. This year, in line with our risk assessment and government guidelines, we are running our parents evenings in a different way. Please see below for how things will work:



- Parents will have the option to choose a 10 minute appointment time with their child's key person.
- All meetings will be conducted under the sheltered areas in the gardens.
- Parents may come together but unfortunately **we cannot accommodate children** on this occasion.
- Masks must be worn by parents and will also be worn by staff.
- Hand sanitiser will be available at each gate for use before entry to the garden.
- Please arrive no earlier than 5 minutes before your appointment.
- Appointments cannot overrun so please be on time and please do not exceed your 10 minute slot. Staff will let you know when this expires if needed.
- Parents of **preschool children** will enter the preschool garden via the **gate to the left of the main yellow doors**.
- Parents of **toddlers and babies** will enter the baby and toddler garden via the **gate to the right of the main yellow doors**.

Thank you in advance for your support and patience with all of these measures. Whilst we recognise that things will be a bit different this time, we are very much looking forward to welcoming you and sharing the wonderful successes of your children with you.

## Staffing:



We are saying a sad farewell to Pippa in Baby Bunnies at the end of August. Pippa has been instrumental in helping us to establish our wonderful baby unit, alongside Cassie who will continue to lead the room forward with the support of her team. Pippa is pursuing an exciting opportunity with the NHS and we wish her the very best of luck for the future.

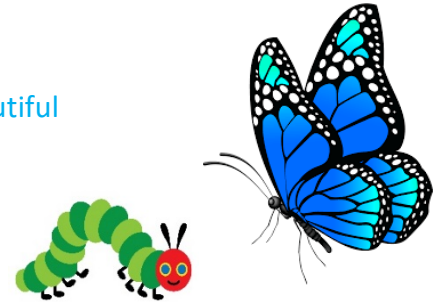
## MacMillan Coffee morning



On Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September we will be offering delicious, freshly baked cakes for sale to raise money for this very worthy cause. The cakes will be by each entrance along with a donation box. Thank you in advance for your support!

## Beautiful Butterflies!

Our very cute caterpillars have started their process of change into beautiful butterflies. The children have been very excited to see them evolve into the different stages and this has led to lots of fantastic learning opportunities. We will put some pictures on the news feed to show their incredible transformation.



## Sessions and Fees 2020 / 2021

Our review of fees for 2020/2021 has come amidst a challenging time for everyone. We have worked very hard over the last 5 months to support our parents as much as we can with nursery fees. We hope that the non-payment of any fees during our forced closure to all but key workers, and then the offer of four return dates, has gone some way to alleviate financial worries.

As part of our review, we have looked closely at charges for different sessions and have ensured we remain fair and competitive in our increases whilst also ensuring the viability of the nursery. We have attached the new fees and sessions sheet in the newspost. Linda will be starting the invoices for September this week so look out for an email letting you know that your new invoice has been created.

For those parents who are receiving funding, that will be included on your invoice. If you believe you are entitled to extended funding (sometimes called '30 hours') please see the blue box at the end of this newsletter for more information.

## Thank you

Finally, we would like to extend a very big thank you to all of you who have been so supportive over the last few months. Your kind words and encouragement have meant so much to us all. Thank you also for being so adaptable with our new procedures, especially with the brief handovers. This is something which has been hard for all of us but we have been so pleased with the way you have all supported us with this and especially our amazing children who have adapted so positively. What a team we all are!



1140 hours funding: If your child turns 3 years old before August 31<sup>st</sup> 2020, you may be eligible for up to 1140 hours of funded hours from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Please see the website for further details. [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) or <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/> The helpline phone number is: 0300 123 4097

**Thank you as always for your ongoing support!**

**Please continue to see the Family app  and calendar for the most up to date news and events.**



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