

PARENT NEWSLETTER 2021/2022

"Helping those tiny feet develop into Giant Steps"

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forwards to seeing you all in 2022.

Keyworker

The staff will share with you your child's keyworker in the first week back after Christmas. This is the person who will complete your child's summative at the end of the term and be your first point of call if you have any concerns.

Tapestry is now used as 'wow' moments and events that we have done through the month. The new EYFS states that staff need to be interacting with children, rather than doing paperwork, which we are all very happy about. All assessments will be completed based on professional judgement and how well the staff know the children at the setting.

SENCO Role

Our new Special Educational Needs Coordinator will be Clair Kerley. Clair has very good experience in this role at Giant Steps. She has been a one-to-one support worker for many years at the setting and has relevant training needed to fulfil this role. If you would like to discuss anything about your child, then please contact the setting and we can arrange a convenient time to speak with myself or Clair.

If your child currently has support at the setting, then Clair will be in touch to discuss this further.

Garden space

We will be working on our garden soon to try to introduce a more holistic, natural space using more natural resources and limiting the use of plastic equipment. If you or anybody you know could help provide the following or help to make anything for the garden, then that would be amazing. I am more than happy to pay for any materials.

Items needed:

- Tyres
- Cable drums
- Wooden steppingstones
- Treated wood for children to build with

Items to be made:

- Wooden seats
- Wooden den
- Flower planters
- Sand pit

Collection times

It was lovely being able to have some parents in the building, even though it was only for a few days. We really enjoyed showing you how fantastic the nursery is looking and how hard the staff have been working on the environments. We have found that some children are becoming a little upset when parents are coming in. I wanted to get your suggestions on how you think we can move forwards with this ensuring all children are our priority. One idea was that we would do an open session at the end of the term so parents could collect and talk to their child's keyworker? Another suggestion was for parents to discuss with their child's key person a convenient time to pick up and spend some time in the room once a month? This will also depend on what is happening with Covid.

Let me know by e-mail what you would like to do, and we can come up with a plan that hopefully will suit most of our parents.

Staff changes

From January Emily will be joining the Munchkins room with Lisa. Kelly will be going back to her room in the Pixies, and we welcome back Molly who will be joining Sofia in the Gnomes room. Molly will remain on reduced hours until her foot injury, which she has still not fully recovered from, has improved which may still require an operation. We will be advertising in the new year for staff to join the team to cover the post until Molly is able to return to full time.

I want to thank Kelly for doing such an amazing job in the Munchkins Room, it looks fantastic. Also, for Emily agreeing to moving rooms. Emily is sad to be leaving the Gnomes Room, but I know she will do a great job continuing with the hard work that Kelly has put in.

A huge thank you to my amazing team. They have worked so incredibly hard to keep Nursery open through the pandemic. As most of know we as a team were hit hard by Covid and without the support of the staff doing extra hours and days and covering different rooms, there is no way I would have been able to manage. I really am lucky to have such a supportive team behind me.

'Giant Steps 2021/2022'

Dates for your diaries

Parents Evening-All Rooms:

Lists to go up at the start of each month for parents to book a slot.

07/02

06/06

17/10

Elves Planning Evening for 2023 school leavers: 26/09 at 6pm

2022 Leavers Party: 15/07 4pm-5.30pm

Easter Family Fun Day- 02/04 2pm-4pm

Photograph Days: TBC

Christmas Family Fun Day: 17/12 – 4pm-6pm

Safeguarding

There is an updated safeguarding board in the entrance hall. The designated safeguarding leads are Gemma Hughes and Kelly Compton-Ranger. All staff have updated and relevant safeguarding training and fully understand the policies and procedures of safeguarding and child protection.

We all have a duty of care to protect all children, inside and outside of Nursery.

Nursery App

Don't forget to download our nursery app. It is a great way to have reminders and keep up to date with nursery news.

Just type in ourschoolsapp in the app store on your phone or device and then enter Giant Steps Nursery. We use the app for all of our updates, important news and reminders.

I have recently sent out e-mails to all parents about updated information to do with the setting. If you have not received any of these e-mails, can you please let me know and send me an e-mail address so I can add you to our list.

Warm Clothes

Due to keeping rooms ventilated during the day with windows and doors open as much as possible, can we please ask for children to be in nice warm clothes for the winter months. We have under floor heating which keeps it nice and snug but with the temperature dropping, we want to ensure children are remaining warm.

30 Hours Funding

If you would like to find out more about the 30 hours, please visit the website

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

You will then be given a code which you need to give to us. This then needs to be renewed every 3 months.

Early Years Pupil Premium

Some parents may also be eligible for pupil premium. Please see below and inform the setting

3 and 4 year olds in state funded early education will attract EYPP funding if they meet at least 1 of the following criteria:

- [Income Support](#)
- Income-based [Jobseeker's Allowance](#)
- Income-related [Employment and Support Allowance](#)
- Support under [part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999](#)
- The guaranteed element of [State Pension Credit](#)
- [Child Tax Credit](#) (provided they're not also entitled to [Working Tax Credit](#) and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- [Working Tax Credit](#) run-on, which is paid for 4 weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- [Universal Credit](#)
- They are currently being looked after by a local authority in England or Wales
- They have left care in England or Wales through:
 - an adoption
 - a special guardianship order
 - a child arrangement order

Website

We are just in the stages of working on updating our website. When this is all complete, we will let you know so you can look.