Addressing Our Ofsted Action Plan

We have recently completed our new Improvement plan where we look at the data collated from our 2014 school leavers, Self Evaluation Form and our Ofsted report and highlight areas in which we feel we need to work on. We have been mainly focusing on improving our woodwork and on the 15th September Sue Dickens, who is an Early Years Consultant, came into Nursery and observed our woodwork and gave us some tips on how to improve. If any parents have any spare pieces of wood they would be happy to donate for the children to work with this would be very much appreciated.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Julia's Mum from Hedgehogs has kindly donated a hamper to the Nursery and we had the idea of filling it with small items and raffling it off at Xmas. If you would like to donate something to put in the hamper (it doesn’t have to be a large item) this would be very much appreciated, thank you. We would like to say thank you to Julia's Mum for donating the hamper to us.

Just to say...

A polite reminder that the nursery closes at 5:45pm everyday. Also, please could all parents try and limit toys that their children bring into Nursery as they sometimes get lost or broken. We would really appreciate it if all parents could label their children's shoes. Also if you could bring a spare change of clothes in your child's Nursery bag as they will at times get their clothes messy / wet. We would encourage you to check your child's Nursery clothes for any sharp fastenings as we wouldn’t want your child to catch themselves on anything, especially while they were sleeping. Thank you very much for your support and cooperation in these matters.

Dates for Your Diary

Week Commencing Monday 17th November –
Road Safety Week

Wednesday 19th November –
9:40am-11:40am Mobile Library visit, Hartpury
Thursday 20th November –
4:00pm-4:30pm Phonics and Sounds Session

Wed 26th Nov - PLEASE NOTE A LATER TIME OF 2:15pm
Last Ballet Lesson (Open Class – all parents welcome)
Friday 28th November – Fairies come to Nursery to decorate ready for Christmas

Mon 1st Dec - 10:30am Last French Lesson
(Open Class – all parents welcome)
Mon 8th Dec - 1:30pm Last Swimming Lesson
(Open Class – all parents welcome)

Tuesday 9th Dec – Last Melody Makers session

Thursday 11th December 11:00am – Breakfast with Santa
(for Big Squirrels )

Monday 15th December – Christmas Parties,
Corse & Staunton Village Hall, times are as follows:

Ladybirds: 9:00am to 10:30am
Hedgehogs: 11:00am to 12:30pm
Little Squirrels: 1:00pm to 2:30pm
Big Squirrels: 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Tuesday 16th December – Nativity Play @ 10:00am for Grandparents (Dress Rehearsal) and @ 2:00pm for Parents

Wednesday 17th December - Nativity Play @ 10:00am for the Over 60’s from Staunton and @ 2:00pm for Parents

Friday 19th Dec – Christmas Carol singing to Parent’s Houses (more details to follow)

Tuesday 23rd December – NURSERY CLOSES 5:45pm

Monday 5th January – NURSERY RE-OPENS 8:00am
**Little Squirrels Parent Day**

Parent Days are a great opportunity for all parents of Little Squirrels children to come into Nursery and see their child’s key person to have a little chat about their progress. We will be holding Parent Days during the week **commencing Monday 8th December** so if you would to come in and see your child’s key person during that week, then please the enclosed form. The Little Squirrels staff will be writing a summative report on every child so it would be wonderful to see as many parents as we can. Please do come along if you are able, thank you.

---

**Christmas Parties – Monday 15th December**

The Christmas Parties have been booked for Monday 15th December at Corse and Staunton Village Hall for the following times:
- 9:00am to 10:30am: Ladybirds
- 11:00am to 12:30pm: Hedgehogs
- 1:00pm to 2:30pm: Little Squirrels
- 3:00pm to 4:30pm: Big Squirrels

There will be games, activities, bouncy castles and, of course, Father Christmas in attendance! If you would like to come to the party, please complete the form attached and return it to Nursery. Please could we ask that all Ladybird parents bring a named feeder cup and there will be a list for small donations of food for the parties in due course. Thank you.

---

**Christmas Nativity for All Pre-school Children**

Every year we complete a Nativity for the pre-school children and their parents.

This year we will be holding two performances, the first one being on **Tuesday 16th December at 2:00pm**, and the second on **Wednesday 17th December at 2:00pm**.

We would also like to welcome the children to a dress rehearsal show for the Grannies and Grand-dads on **Tuesday 16th December at 10:00am**.

Please could you let us know as soon as possible if you do not think that your child can attend the dress rehearsal or both of the shows as we may have to re-cast. We are also very limited for spaces so I am afraid that we have a slight restriction to two places per family. We have had a stage built into Big squirrels so the nativity will take place there.

Please could you also let us know immediately if your child cannot be videoed or have their photograph taken by other parents, as then I will have to stop all images being taken. I have included a section for Nativity on the reply form and if you could complete as soon as possible and return I would be very grateful.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the children as each year I amazed at their talents and what they achieve on stage!! If at any time children are beginning to feel anxious, then we will encourage these children to help backstage or complete other important jobs, for instance helping with mince pies and programmes - there will be a role for all children as this is a particularly enjoyable experience for everyone!!
Singing to the Over 60’s at Christmas

Every year we complete a singing session for the Over 60’s at Christmas. This year it is **Wednesday 17th December at 10:00am**. The Over 60’s from Staunton visit us and have been doing so for the past 22 years to celebrate Christmas with us. We complete a little of the Nativity and sing some songs, and all the children on this day become involved. Therefore, if your child is not in on this day, please do not worry to bring your child in especially as I know that Christmas is a very busy time.

After singing the children distribute small gifts for the ladies and gentlemen and we always ask our parents to donate something small, wrapped up and labeled for either a lady or gentleman. These gifts do not have to be large, a packet of hankies, or some “After Eights” will be just great. Just a small gift which can truly make Christmas for these sometimes very lonely people. Please complete the reply slip if you are able to donate something - we say thank you in advance for your support.

No Pens Day Wednesday

We took part in No Pens Day Wednesday, which was on 15th October. No Pens Day Wednesday encouraged schools and early years settings to put down their pens and pick up their language by running a day of speaking and listening activities. So, in preparation for this, we put all of our mark making resources into hiding and organised lots of activities that focused on verbal communication.

Ladybirds and Hedgehogs enjoyed listening to stories and performing puppet shows, exploring lifting flap story books and having fun with different puppet characters. Hedgehogs converted their Home Corner into a Cafe for the day, with no pens allowed! Little and Big Squirrels had fun in group discussions, puppet shows and listening games!

Visit to the Over 60’s

On the 6th October Big Squirrels went to visit the over 60’s to celebrate the Harvest Festival with them. We took gifts and sang songs, which the ladies loved. The over 60’s really enjoy our visits and appreciated us taking the time to visit them.
**Diwali Celebrations**

We had a great time learning about Diwali and making our little tea light holders on Thursday 23rd October. We thank all parents who came into Nursery to celebrate Diwali with us to try different foods and learn more about the Diwali festival and Hindu culture and beliefs.

**Magic Moments**

We would like to say a very BIG "well done" to all the children who have been awarded their Wow Certificate during the month of October. It is really wonderful to see children take steps forward in their learning and development.

**Ladybirds:** We would like to say a big congratulations to Felicity, Theo and Megan for taking their first few steps! Also to Jack for doing so well with his walking! Oscar has been doing brilliantly with his swimming and has passed his Aquatots Duckling Level — well done! Well done to Daisy for coming in so well to Ladybirds!

**Hedgehogs:** Sophia is now in Big Girl pants and doing so well in toilet training. Jack L is now in a Big Boy’s bunk bed with his brother George. Joseph is doing really well with his swimming and has now completed Starfish 1 — congratulations!

**Little Squirrels:** Charlotte is now in Big Girl pants - well done to you!

**Big Squirrels:** Ella is now not having a bottle during the night - good girl!!

A very big congratulations to all of you!

**Phonics and Sounds Session November 20th**

On Thursday 20th November at 4:00pm, Jo Mansbridge is coming to Countryside to do a Phonics and Sounds session with the staff and any parents if they would like to come, in order to help them gain more confidence in using phonics. Jo is a teacher at Staunton and Corse school and we are really looking forward to welcoming her at Countryside and appreciate her support in helping us learn more about this topic which in turn will enable us to support your children more effectively.