We are once again fortunate to have been able to book Living Eggs. The eggs arrived on Tuesday 3rd April. There was great excitement in Big Squirrels on Wednesday 4th April as eight chicks hatched out. The children have named seven of the chicks so far, Petal, Chick Chick, Fluffy, Joan, Princess, Teddy and Rosie.

This year the children (and staff) have found this an absolutely fascinating activity as the incubator stayed with us for two weeks. After this the chicks are now growing exceptionally well and the children have been able to help look after these young birds.
April was National Pet Month and the children were given the opportunity to bring their pets into Nursery to show their friends! We would like to thank all parents who very kindly brought in their various pets for us to meet - it was really lovely to see such a variety of animals and the children loved seeing them and having the opportunity to pet them and talk about different animals.

On Thursday 19th April Graham came to Nursery to hold a gardening session with the Little Squirrels children. The children worked hard to prepare the vegetable beds ready for planting.

We will continue to garden with the children and Graham as the year progresses.
Little Squirrels Parents Days

Parents Day is a great opportunity for all parents of Little Squirrel children to come into Nursery and see their child’s key person to have a little chat about their progress. We will be holding Parents Days on Friday 25th May for Amy’s key children and Friday 1st June for Sarah’s key children, so if you would like to come in and see your child’s key person during this evening then please complete the enclosed reply slip. The Little Squirrel staff will be writing a Summative and Progress Report on every child so it would be great to see as many parents as we can. Please do come along if you are able, thank you.

Information for 2018 School Leavers

As our pre-school children are preparing for the transition from Nursery to school, I have sourced an excellent company who manufacture nametags. For those parents receiving this email via a paper copy, The website for these name tags is: https://www.mynametags.com/

MyNametags.com so have a look if you would like to find out more and you can also place an order through the website.

On another note, please could I remind all pre-school parents to inform us as soon as they are able of the school their child has been allocated so that we can begin to contact schools to support transitions for your child. Please could you also let us know your child’s last day at Nursery - Once we have the date, we can ensure that all your child’s records will be ready for you on your last day with us here at Countryside. Can I also remind all parents to cancel their salary sacrifice vouchers in plenty of time as I will not be able to reimburse any finances from the salary sacrifice schemes. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

Table Top sale Saturday 26th May

Staunton and Corse Early Years are holding a Table Top Sale on Saturday 26th May at Staunton and Corse Village Hall 10.30-12.30.

If you are looking to have a clear out of your unwanted children’s clothes, toys and equipment or would like to refresh your child’s wardrobe then this is the sale for you!

Please see attached flyer with booking details.
Easter Celebrations at Countryside

Ladybirds

Hedgehogs

Little Squirrels

Big Squirrels
Thank you to Ethan’s Mummy for so kindly donating some pallets to us for our Cosy Corners.

Thank you to William’s Daddy (Big Squirrels) for donating some CD cases to us, they will be so useful at Christmas and for our school leavers.

Thank you to Rose’s Mummy (Big Squirrels) for donating some large cushions for our Cosy Corners.

Thank you to Evelyn’s Mummy who kindly gave us some beautiful fabric.

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Thank you to Evelyn’s Mummy who kindly gave us some beautiful fabric.

Science Activities at Pendock School

On Friday 11th May 2018 at 1.30pm-2.30pm, Pendock School have kindly invited our children and parents to go and visit them and complete some Science Activities.

This is an excellent opportunity to join in with a very welcoming local Primary School to complete some Science activities with your children.

We will be taking a Nursery group but Pendock school have kindly opened this invitation to everyone. Please do come along and meet with Pendock school to see just what fabulous opportunities they offer to young children at school.

If you are interested in attending please write on the reply slip.
Fun in the Sun.....

The weather has been glorious and along with warm weather, of course, it is a firm favourite to get the paddling pools out. We have had a few wonderful sessions with the children and thought you may like to see the photos of the children enjoying splashing away and having great fun in the sun!!

Safety in the Sun

Some parents may have noticed that staff are wearing special UV bracelets. We have resourced these and they are fabulous for indicating high levels of UV outdoors, as they will turn from white to pink. We have ordered our bracelets through www.carethy.co.uk however, I believe you can purchase these from most online suppliers. They are definitely very useful as even on a cloudy day these bracelets will indicate high levels of UV and then protective measures can be put in place, such as administration of sun cream and limited time outdoors in the sun. We are very much an outdoor setting as our children really enjoy the outdoors, however, we are extremely conscientious about enjoying the sun safely. Cancer Research UK have produced a really useful leaflet "be Sunsmart- cut your cancer risk" the link is www.cruk.org/sunsmart. So please do read this for further information.

Applying Sun Cream before Nursery

Now we are in the Summer term and the temperatures are very high, we would be greatly appreciated if you could apply sun cream on your child before their day begins to enable us to speed up the time to have the children outside to play before the sun becomes too hot. We will of course monitor carefully and apply sun cream with your permission throughout the day, but would be grateful if you could start the morning with an application. Thank you.
Mindfulness in the Car Park

I am just writing this as one of our parents commented to me that they had witnessed another parent texting whilst reversing in the Nursery Car Park. I am therefore asking that all parents could be extra cautious in the Nursery Car Park as we have so many children crossing the area.

I am also writing to inform you that I have made enquires to SF Planning to apply for a separate exit route out of the Nursery to make it safer for the children. Therefore, my aim is to keep the main entrance for cars to enter and then create an exit route out through the staff car park onto the main road. I feel that by having a clear straight passage through the Nursery car park, this will be far safer for the children as it will reduce the amount of cars reversing and manoeuvring at busy times.

I will be meeting with the planning advisers from SF Planning on Tuesday 1st May so I will keep you updated with the outcome.

Thank you to Nick and Claire Kinahan (Olivia’s parents) for forwarding SF Planning’s details to me – I am very grateful.

Dancing and Music Session

On Wednesday 26th we had a Music and Dance session with Pendock School and Melody makers. The Little and Big Squirrels children had an amazing time singing along to a variety of songs, moving to the music using scarves, playing instruments and dancing to African Music.

Thank you to Pendock for visiting and to Mrs Sally Lyndon-Chance (Head teacher at Pendock) for her excellent African dancing session.
Amy and Dave’s Wedding

The weekend of the 28th April Amy and her hens had a fabulous weekend away in Cardiff. Becki (Big Squirrels) Amy’s Maid of Honour arranged a fun packed weekend for the girls including dance lessons, cocktail making and dancing into the small hours.

Here are a few photos of the weekend, which I am sure you will enjoy looking at!

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The Hen Do.....

Please could all children’s belongings be labelled clearly with their names as many children have the same style of shoes and sun hats, this would help us quickly identify who’s belongings are who’s. My Nametags provides a variety of labels, the web address is:

www.MyNametags.com

Daddies Morning on Thursday 14th June 9.30am-11am

We will be holding a Daddies morning at Pendock School for all Dads to come in with their child (even if it is not their usual Nursery day) to do some fun activities together. We will be having hotdogs, tea / coffee during the event so it would be lovely to see as many of you as we can.

I know Pendock school will be organising some amazing activities for all of our Dads, so we would really love to see as many Dads as possible. We will also be taking a group of children for the morning.

Please do complete the reply slip if you would like to attend so we know for numbers and special dietary requirements.

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Wrist Bands for Head Injuries

Following a First Aid course Grace attended it has been suggested by the trainer (GDR Solutions) when a child has a head injury we put a wrist band on the child as well as the Bump Head letter. Below is an example of the suggested wrist band, the staff and myself think is would be a very useful prompt at handovers and I would be interested to hear your views on this before I make my decision on whether we use them or not, so if you would express your views on the reply slip I would be grateful.

How parents’ arguments really affect their children

This is an article which I was sent and I am sure this will be of great interest to everyone. As life is so busy as parents we can sometimes forget how our actions affect young children but after reading this article I feel that every parent could learn something after reading it. It is a very useful read with some interesting facts about how arguing can cause sleep disturbance, disrupted early brain development for infants, anxiety and conduct problems for primary school children, and depression and academic problems and other serious issues, such as self-harm, for older children and adolescents. It also has some good tips for positive parenting skills too.

Also, if any parents need support at Nursery, please do ask as we are always here to support our families.

This article can be found on the BBC Family & Education website:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-43486641

General Data Protection Regulation

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a new EU law which comes into effect on 25th May 2018 and will form part of the replacement for the current Data protection Act 1998. It will remain in force even after the UK leaves the EU.

For us at Countryside we will preparing for this change by completing the following:

1. Choose someone to have responsibility for leading Data Protection within our setting, Grace will be our Data Protection Officer at Countryside.
2. Check if we are registered with the ICO which we are.
3. Countryside will be completing an Audit of all the personal data that we hold.
4. Our Policies will be revised to ensure we are completing our statutory obligations regarding record keeping and we will make sure you have clearly documented why/under which obligation you are keeping records (e.g. Safeguarding/accident records.

We do need parents to complete a form which is attached as a separate document by 25th May 2018.

If any parents have any queries about this information please see Grace.
Parents and Grandparents First Aid Refresher training  
Tuesday 29th May 4.00pm-5.00pm

We are organizing a First Aid Training evening here, for parents and grandparents which will be on Tuesday 29th May 4:00-5:00pm.

We are informing you early as this is such a good opportunity for you to learn more about the basics of first aid. The session will also be open to any grannies and grandads who feel they may like to attend. We have opened the session to our grandparents as we see so many grandparents during the week helping with the childcare we though it may be useful to you too.

Please indicate on the reply slip if you will need childcare in order to attend. Unfortunately we will not be able to offer childcare at this training course, unless your child is already booked in for that session. Just to confirm that this will not be a certificated course, it is just to raise awareness in case you need to deal with any type of emergency first aid.

If there are any specific areas of first aid you would like covered, then please make a note of them on the reply slip and we will inform the trainer.

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Staff Training: – First Aid Refresher Training

On Thursday 26th April we all stayed for a first aid refresher training. Although the statutory requirements legally expect all staff to be first aid trained very three years, I feel it is exceptional practice for staff to have this reminder every year, so this is why we organise this training. Therefore, Gareth from GDR Solutions completed this training for us – thank you to the staff for staying behind after work and thank you to Gareth for a very enjoyable session.

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Hedgehog Trip to Staverton

Hedgehog children were interested in planes and as a result we organised a trip to Staverston Airport. When we arrived the children were so excited to watch the planes and helicopters land and take off at the airport. Then we concluded this trip with a drink and a biscuit in the coffee shop. Thank you to all Hedgehog staff for organising a lovely trip—the children were so excited and had a wonderful time.
Thank you to Ashleworth School for their invitation to Forest School – Friday 27th April.

We were kindly invited to Ashleworth’s new Forest School area. This fabulous facility opened last September and we took the Big Squirrels children to enjoy a session organized by the school. Although it rained for the whole duration, this did not deter the children's enthusiasm as they had an amazing time. The children had also been interested in Garden Centre’s after changing their role play area into a Garden Centre, so we also combined this trip with a visit to the Garden Centre. I hope you enjoy seeing the photos below of a very exciting morning. Thank you so much to Ashleworth school for this fabulous invitation.

Hedgehog Trip on the train – Friday 27th April

Hedgehog children have also been interested in trains and therefore, a train trip was arranged from Ledbury to Great Malvern. Here we stopped at the cafe and had a drink at one of our ex-grandparent’s coffee shop before returning back to Ledbury on the return train. Thank you again to all Hedgehog staff for organising a lovely trip as it makes the children’s experiences so rich and varied.
Please let us know if your child has done something exciting at home and we will celebrate it here with a Wow certificate! It is really wonderful to see our children taking steps forward in their learning and development and they also like to share this with their friends during Circle Time.

**Ladybirds:** Congratulations to Lucy and Archie W for sleeping in your Big Beds, well done to both of you.

**Hedgehogs:** Well done to Ivy L for getting yourself dressed at home, clever girl! Congratulations to Florence and Ava for being kind to your friends and sharing resources, well done!

**Little Squirrels:** Congratulations to Sophie R for achieving your Level 5 “Starfish” swimming award, you are so clever, well done.

**Big Squirrels:** Well done to William for getting dressed by yourself and congratulations to Barney for being independent with dressing, toileting and brushing your own teeth, you are both very clever boys!

**Congratulations to all of you superstars!**

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**National Penguin Day**

The 25th April was National Penguin Day, Hedgehogs celebrated this by having a story about Penguins and then they made an igloo out of a large cardboard. This was very exciting as for the next few days the children enjoyed hiding in their igloo and reading a multitude of stories.
Dates for your Diary

May
- Friday 4th – Ladybird Forest School Session at CDN
- Wednesday 9th – Big Squirrels Forest School Session at CDN
- Friday 11th – Science Activity at Pendock School
- Thursday 17th – Little Squirrels Forest School Session at CDN
- Friday 18th 1.30pm-2.30pm – Big Squirrels trip to Brand Green Fruit Farm with Pendock
- Tuesday 22nd May – Hedgehog Forest School Session at CDN
- Friday 25th May – Little Squirrels Parent Day (Amy’s Key children)
- Tuesday 29th – Parents first aid refresher training 4-00-5-00pm
- Wednesday 30th – Ladybird Forest School Session at CDN
- Thursday 31st – Nursery Photographer 11-00am-1-00pm

June
- Friday 1st June – Little Squirrels Parent Day (Sarah’s key children)
- Tuesday 5th – Big Squirrels Forest School Session at CDN
- Monday 11th – Little Squirrels Forest School Session at CDN
- Thursday 14th 9.30am-11am – Dad’s to Pendock School to celebrate Fathers Day
- Friday 22nd – Hedgehog Forest School Session at CDN
- Tuesday 26th – Ladybird Forest School Session at CDN
- Wednesday 27th – Open Ballet Show

July
- Thursday 5th – Big Squirrels Forest School Session at CDN
- Monday 9th – Last French Class
- Tuesday 10th – Little Squirrels Forest School Session at CDN
- Monday 16th – Last Swimming Lesson and watching week
- Monday 23rd – Hedgehog Forest School Session at CDN

Countryside Sports Days

- Tuesday 17th July 11am-1pm – Ladybirds Sports Day
- Tuesday 17th July 2pm-4pm – Little Squirrels Sports Day
- Wednesday 18th July 11am-1pm – Hedgehogs Sports Day
- Wednesday 18th July 2pm-4pm – Big Squirrels Sports Day