



Countryside Day Nursery Newsletter

December 2023

Children In Need



On Friday 17th November we joined in with the Children In Need fund raising event. Little Squirrels and Big Squirrels participated in an exciting Supa Strikers session at Hartpury Village Hall with "Coach Chris" and the Ladybird and Hedgehog Children came dressed in their pyjamas. We all had a wonderful day and as you can see from the photos. We raised a total of £312-25p- thank you, very much for all your contributions for this very worthwhile charity.



Fee Increase From March 2024

As always Countryside Day Nursery offers high quality care and education for young children within the community, however, in order to continuously deliver these high standards there has to be a necessary fee increase. Considerations have been made to keep the fee increase to a minimum and the new pricing structure will come into effect from **Monday 4th March 2024**

I am writing this in December's newsletter to give you as much notice as possible. As you are all probably aware Countryside reinvests huge amounts of income back into the Nursery in order that your children can benefit from improvements and quality practice. Excellent variety of learning opportunities for your children to improve their outcomes and constant purchase of new resources are some examples of how your money is re-invested into the setting. In addition to this, I know that everyone is aware of the increase in fuel costs, food costs and general day to day running of a business. All of these factors lead to a necessary fee increase from March next year.

I have attached a new pricing structure with this newsletter. When children are accessing the universal 15 hours of Nursery Education Funding at the ages of 3 or 4 years, there is an optional food charge of £6-60p for lunch and £3.60 for both morning and afternoon snacks. Any unfunded hours at Countryside will be charged at £11-40p per hour. We accept the 15 hours funding 3 and 4 year old funding and parents are able to access a maximum of 6 hours per day on any one session, please note Countryside does not and is not planning to offer 15 or 30 hours of Nursery Education Funding for any other ages.

Please can I also take this opportunity to remind parents whose children are leaving for school in September 2024 to cancel their salary sacrifice childcare contracts, as Countryside Day Nursery cannot reimburse any payments which are made once the children have left the establishment.

Can I also remind parents to visit the governments childcare choices website which has a plethora of options to support parents with childcare costs.

Ladybirds Learning Activities in November 2023



Five Little Ducks sensory tray fun.



Fun with balls and tubes.



Exploring the Dear Zoo animals in the sand tray.



Creating Diwali pictures.



Enjoying looking at a book together.



Creating firework pictures.



Having fun crawling through the tunnel.



Exploring the "Busy Board".



Creating Poppies for Remembrance Day.



Doing a little fixing before hoovering!!!



Having fun with foam

Hedgehogs Learning Activities in November 2023



Exploring the sensory feely bags.



Enjoying Cosmic Kids Yoga.



Creating our Hedgehog collages.



Going for a walk in the meadow.



Creating Lamb masks.



Watching the tractor we spotted in the field.



Having a story.



Putting our hands in paint to try and paint a snowman



Using the squeezy bottles to make a colourful picture together.



Exploring the mud kitchen.

Little Squirrels Learning Activities in November 2023



Exploring the sensory tray together.



Enjoying a painting activity using the small paint brushes.



Being creative with the coloured dot stickers.



Creating Firework pictures.



Being very creative with the playdough.



Independent book time.



Parachute Fun.



Making Jam sandwiches for tea.



Using the hammers to release the Dinosaurs from the ice.



Having fun with the gloop and spoons.



Painting Autumn leaves which we collected .



Using the little knives to practise our cutting skills.

Big Squirrels Learning Activities in November 2023



Mark making in the rain.



Enjoying our hotdogs and hot chocolate around our camp fire in the meadow.



Using corks and paint to decorate the letters at the beginning of our names.



Having fun splashing in the muddy puddles!



Dancing to our Celebration song.



Climbing high.



Wow, look at those shapes, patterns and colours



Practising hard with our letters and sounds



Trying hard to use and manipulate a glue spatula

Magic Moments

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 love sharing their certificates with their friends during Circle Time.

Ladybirds: Congratulations to **Zeta** and **Henry** for sleeping on a mat at Nursery. Well done to **Felix** for doing so well with crawling.

Big Squirrels: Well done to **Nora** for completing a sticker activity independently. Well done to **Oscar L-J**, for making a Hedgehog a very lovely new home. Another huge well done to **Emily** for being able to confidently write her name using the correct letter formation- **Emily** has been busy writing her Christmas cards. Also a big well done to **Sebastian C-S** for visiting the dentist- we are very proud of you all- a massive well done.

Congratulations to all of you superstars!

Collecting times

Can I take this opportunity to just politely remind parents to collect their children on time. I understand we have had river and road issues just recently, but please be mindful to allow that extra time so that you are able to collect your child on time. It is important that the staff can give time to the children who are currently continuing on with the full day session and it is also important that the staff are able to leave on time. Therefore, if you feel you would like a more lengthy handover, please ask us at the time to call you at a later stage and we will do so. Thank you in advance for your co-operation with this matter.

Thank you to Tabitha



Thank you so much to Tabitha for donating these very useful nappies. As you can imagine, we get through quite a few nappies and we are very grateful to Tabitha for thinking of us here at Nursery.

Thank you so much,

Ladybird Parent Days

This month will be Ladybirds Parent Days. If you would like to discuss with your child's key worker how they are getting along, please email me at info@countrysidedaynursery.co.uk and I will ask a member of the Ladybird team to arrange a consultation with you.

Alternatively, please message the Ladybird staff through Tapestry and they will then arrange a convenient time with you via this method.

Trip to Eleanor's house to meet Baby Jesus



On 29th November, as we were practising for our Nativity, we thought it would be a lovely idea if Big Squirrels could visit a real stable and see exactly where Baby Jesus was born. Thank you so much to Eleanor's parents for organising this for us. We followed the star, we met Eleanor's pony, Eleanor's Mum read us a Nativity story and we were so lucky to have hot chocolate and biscuits. Thank you to Eleanor, for a wonderful trip.

Trip to Ashleworth to collect our Christmas Trees



On 30th November, we were so lucky to be invited back to Shaun's Christmas tree farm again this year, to choose 3 Christmas trees for our friends at Nursery. Thank you so much to Shaun for organising this for us. It was a very cold and frosty morning, but we soon got warm walking up the steep bank looking for 3 suitable Christmas trees.

The best bit was counting to 10 before Shaun cut the trees down with his special sharp saw- this was fun!!

Thank you to Rose



Thank you to Rose for kindly donating some lovely resources which we know the children at Nursery will enjoy- you are very kind and thoughtful- thank you so much

Thank you to Harry



Thank you also to Harry for kindly donating some very useful spare clothes. We always find these items useful as very often we do need spares, so we are very grateful to Harry and his family.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all!

On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to thank you very much for continuously reading our newsletters, tapestry posts and supporting your children every step of the way. You would not believe what a difference this makes to us as staff within our job roles, as your support is fundamental to your child's early learning and development. We are so lucky at Countryside to have an excellent partnership with parents and we thank you so much for being brilliant supportive parents.

Please note that the last day the Nursery will be open is Friday 22nd December 2023

December and we will re-open on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 8-00am.

As this is the last newsletter of the year, we hope that you will all enjoy a well deserved restful Christmas period, and we hope that you have a lovely time at Christmas with your children. Can I take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year from us all here at Countryside. From Grace xxx