



Countryside Day Nursery Newsletter July 2023

Sports Day Times

Countryside Day Nursery Sports Days

Tuesday 11th July 2023

9.30am-11.30am- Hedgehogs Sports Day
1.30pm-3.30pm- Little Squirrels Sports Day

Wednesday 12th July 2023

1.30pm-3.30pm- Big Squirrels Sports Day
4pm-5pm- Leavers Presentation

This year these events will take place at Staunton and Corse Village Hall.

New Carpet in Little Squirrels



On Thursday 15th June we had to evacuate Little Squirrels room so that we could have a new carpet fitted. Therefore, we took the children to the Dick Whittington Centre, as we hired the centre for the day, just for us. We had a wonderful day, albeit it was a little warm, but when we came back, we had a wonderful surprise, a new carpet which we all enjoyed lying off after our very busy trip- even Luke had a lie down!!



Ladybirds Learning Activities in June



Exploring the sand.



Mark making with a variety of resources



Having fun on the slide.



Scooping up and filling containers.



Enjoying shop role play.



Having a go at climbing.



Ball Pool Fun!



Water play fun in the garden.

Playing Hide and seek!



Hedgehogs Learning Activities in June



Emptying and filling containers.



Using tweezers to pick up the Pom Poms.



Singing songs in the Caravan.



Getting creative with paints.



Lots of excitement when we spotted a tractor in the field.



Exploring with colours and marks.



Parachute fun in the garden.



Keeping cool with water play.



Practising our balancing,



A visit to the sheep field.

Little Squirrels Learning Activities in June



Having fun washing the trikes and cars.



Planting seeds and watering them.



Creating Jelly Fish Sun Catchers.



Exploring the Rock Pool and Tea bag sensory trays.



Practising balancing skills.



Building Structures together.



Cooking up some tasty treats together!

Big Squirrels Learning Activities in June



Sticker creative pictures.



Planting and watering our Nursery garden.



Using our imaginations to be creative together.



Making Pirate masks for Pirate Day!



Look at us!



Using the diggers and our hands to explore the sand.



Concentrating really hard.



Podding our Broad Beans.

Having fun washing the animals.



Thank you to.....

Finley

We would like to thank Finley's family for very kindly donating several bags of spare clothes for us to use at Countryside.

This was very generous of you and these resources will be greatly used .

Thank you so much for thinking of us.



William



Thank you so much to William for kindly donating your wonderful sunflower plants which you and your Nanny planted. These have been so gratefully received- we have been busy planting these all around the Nursery and we are looking forward to seeing how tall they grow- thank you so much.

Arlo



Thank you so much to Arlo for donating some of your spare pants, We are so grateful as we do use quite a lot of spare pants at Nursery, particularly when potty training, so thank you so much for thinking of us when donating these.

Fun in the paddling pool



We made the most of the very hot weather with paddling pools and slippery water slides- it was lovely to hear the children laughing and having so much fun.



Shutting the front gate

Please could we just ask parents as a friendly reminder to make sure that all the gates to the Nursery are closed behind them.

As you all know we have a variety of different gates and it is important that we all make sure the gates are closed to keep the children safe.

As staff once we hand over to parents it is important that parents are then responsible for your children and whilst we do every effort to keep the setting safe, please be mindful of your children's actions.

However, hopefully with this reminder, we can all ensure that the children remain safe at Nursery. I am very grateful for your co-operation with this matter.

Early Years Funding

As parents I am sure you all heard that during the last budget the Conservatives announced a whole range of services which they would be offering to parents of young children, including funding for younger children.

I attended a leadership and management meeting last week and this was raised at the meeting. The County Council are still waiting to hear further details and if there is a change of Government in the New Year then they have said that this may change again.

However, I am writing to make you aware that as it stands at the moment, Countryside will not be able to offer this extended funding. We will continue with the 15 hours for 3 and 4 year olds which we currently take. If you would like your child to attend a second setting, then it may be possible for you to use this funding at an alternative setting, providing that they have spaces and are also taking the extra funding.

Safer Use of ICT

Here at Countryside, we are continuously aware that there is an increase in the amount of devices/ information online which not only we use at Nursery, but also parents use at home. Because of this, children are now much more digitally aware. As a statistic you tube kids is becoming the destination for 72% of children aged 3-4 years according to a recent report. That is an unbelievably high percentage of young children accessing an electronic device. Whilst here at Nursery, we continuously promote the other areas of learning, such as outdoor learning, playing communication games and the list goes on..... the children's use of digital devices is quite limited, however, also as a setting, we wouldn't be without apps, such as Tapestry, but there just needs to be a balance and if accessing it needs to be safe.

Below there are a few links where for parents you can access further information to protect your children and keep them safe online:-

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

Apps for early years children can also be very good and help families promote learning and development with their children.

A series of 6 apps published on the [Hungry Little Minds website](#) - is part of the government's drive to help parents make informed decisions about the use of technology in creating positive learning environments at home.

I hope this information helps as one thing is for certain, the use of ICT is not going to go away!!

Staff meeting 15-6-23

I would personally like to thank all of the staff for staying behind every month after work when we have our regular staff meetings. We try and have a theme for our monthly staff meetings and for June we were looking to improve the front playground. We used the work of theorists Clark and Moss (2001)- the Mosaic Approach. This approach specifically looks at the enabling environment through the eyes of the child. Therefore, as a staff team we sat on the picnic mat in various locations to look at the environment through the eyes of a 3 year old. We took photos of areas which we felt needed improvements and made a list of these and we will be gradually making a start to improve. Thank you to Issy for taking the photos of us all on this very hot summer evening!!



Big Squirrels getting creative

On Friday 16th June we had a wonderful afternoon as our big squirrels wanted to create their own sunflower- here they are creating it.



Metal Saucepans and Lids

Ladybirds are looking at making a musical wall in their patio area to enhance the children's learning and development. In order to complete this they are looking for metal saucepans and lids, ideally ones which ribbon can be threaded through so we can hang them up.

If anyone has any they no longer require we would be extremely grateful of them please.

Many Thanks from the Ladybird Team.

September 2023 information evening

On Thursday 7th September at 7-00pm, - 8-00pm Grace, Laura and Michelle (Big Squirrels) would like to invite all of the 2024 school cohort children's parents/ carers to Nursery to have an informative evening discussing what we are going to complete in Big Squirrels for the forthcoming academic year and how we are going to prepare your child for school

We will also be talking about choosing the correct school for your child and we will have a power point offering information to parents about this process. Therefore, if you would like to attend this evening, please email Grace at info@countysidedaynursery.co.uk and then Grace will book you places for the evening.

Mr and Mrs Jolly- Married on Thursday 8th June

Tom and Sadie had a wonderful day on 8th June at their wedding. Tom has asked me to say a huge thank you to all of our parents for their card and gift- it was very unexpected and generous.. We hope you enjoy looking at the photos of Tom and Sadie's wonderful day.



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 **Connie** for starting to walk, to **Aura** for beginning to use lots of words and sounds, to **Rory** for excellent communicating and also saying please, to **Angus** and **Penelope** for settling so well into Nursery, to **Mabel Y** for also working so hard on her settling-in, to **Arlo** for completing some excellent singing and actions to songs, to **Ace** for completing some excellent setting-in sessions in Hedgehogs, to **Barnaby** for transitioning so well when sleeping in the Hedgehog room, to **Wilbur** for being a super big brother and to **Zeta** for also starting to walk. Wow, a huge well done to the little Ladybirds, you are all progressing so well and we are so proud of our youngest children here at Nursery- a massive well done to you all.

Hedgehogs: Well done to **Bertie** for wearing big boy pants and congratulations to **Sidney** for sleeping in a big boys bed! Well done to you both.

Little Squirrels: Congratulations to **Oscar**, **Freddie** and **Erin** for all learning to use the toilet. Well done to **Betsy** and **Hendrix** for doing so well with your new sessions in Little Squirrels and congratulations to **Beatrix** for showing kindness to your friends at Nursery. You are all amazing, well done!

Big Squirrels: Well done to **Grace** and **Emilia** for rising your bikes so confidently without stabilisers. A huge well done to **Thea** and **Orla** for confidently being able to write your own names at Nursery. Also a massive well done to **Rufus** for completing some fabulous emergent writing. And finally a wonderful well done to **Mabel** for completing some excellent self-care skills. We are so very proud of you all- well done Big Squirrels

Congratulations to all of you superstars!

Big Squirrels Reports

This month its the time for Big Squirrels Transition Reports to go to school. Grace and Laura have been writing the reports and when your child leaves Big Squirrel Room then these reports will be sent home to be then taken to school in September. We have been continuously contacting the local schools and we have had an excellent response with many reception teachers meeting up with us via the telephone, zoom or actually visiting the Nursery and meeting the children in the Big Squirrels Class. I have been very pleased with these responses as the conversations which we have all help to support a smooth transition from Nursery to school in September 2023.

If there is anything you would like us to add on these reports, please do speak with Laura or Grace.