



Winter Newsletter



Christmas has passed and hopefully you all had a lovely time. Winter is still with us and the variable weather conditions mean that the children are still able to freely come and go in and out of the garden. This is great but does mean mud is involved in some way. Please do not dress your children in best clothes and do put changes in their bags including socks. Our wellies are getting old so if any one has any spares do bring them in. We are purchasing new waterproof suits which will be good for rainy days.

We have been following the Reggio Approach to Learning for a few weeks now. The children are benefitting from our improved environment and the staff are enjoying how we reflect on your child's learning and plan for his/her development. Please do add your photos and comments to Tapestry as we can build a good picture of your child's development in this way.

The children will be exploring the contents of the treasure bags that have now been returned. If you have any odds and ends or interesting items do bring them in. We will be sending the bags home again at the end of the term. This is a great way of having resources that can be used creatively and encourage children to think for themselves.

PARKING

May I remind everyone that you can only use the Tewkesbury Ave entrance between 7.30am-8am and after 3.30pm. The car park opposite the school cannot be used. You may use the Nashe Way car park at any time

DRIVE SLOWLY AND DO NOT PARK IN ANY DISABLED SPACE

MOBILE PHONES

To ensure the safeguarding of all of the children please **DO NOT USE YOUR MOBILE PHONE IN THE SETTING**. Staff phones are locked away and visitors will be able to put theirs in a safe in the office. Parents collecting children must keep phones in pockets or bags.

IMPORTANT

Please complete the update form which will be in your pod. We wish to be able to take children out, use photos and be certain we have up to date contact numbers, this form covers all of these permissions. Phone numbers are important as in the case of bad weather closures you will be contacted by text messages.

TOILET TRAINING

We are here to support you with toilet training please read page at the end which has tips to make it a less stressful time

WE NEED YOUR HELP, PLEASE!

Please can you support our project – "**GROWING PLACES @ LITTLE OAKS**

Shop at Tesco and pick up a token- you can buy just one item and do not need to purchase a bag- either put the token in the box in store or bring your tokens to us and we will ensure they get into the right box.

Please share this with your friends. [Join our Facebook page](#) and you will see the information to share.

The names of Tesco store with token boxes for Little Oaks are at the end of this news letter.



Dates for your Diary: Collect your fridge magnet with all important dates from your Pod.

Term Dates: (these dates are for term time funded children's attendance)

Spring 3rd January – 7th April Half term 20th -24th February

Summer 24th April – 25th July Half Term 29th May – 2nd June

Autumn 4th Sept – 21st Dec Half term 23rd Oct – 3rd Nov (this is 2 weeks due to the number of term time weeks that are funded)

Easter holiday 10th April – 23rd April Summer holiday 26th July- 1st September

Closure days : Bank holidays:14th April 17th April, 1st May, 29th May, 28th August

Company training day closure. 25th August

Meet the Staff weeks: weeks commencing 27th February, and 5th June. Please book a time to share your child's development with your key person.

School Leavers Parents eve. 27th April.

Events:

Spring-Time Tea-Time, High Tea and Fun Saturday 6th May

Sports day fun 26th May

Photographer 13th June 9.30- 2.30 – family photographs TBA after school times

Summer Trip for School Leaver Children to Moors Valley Country Park 15th June We will need confirmation that your child will be going by 1st March. We would like parents to accompany children if possible.

(£10 per person. £5 deposit required by 1st April remainder by 1st June, you may pay in smaller amounts but total due by 1st June).

Graduation Ceremony for school Leavers 1.30pm 21st July

'Harry Potter' Night with Trigger and Ghosty fun! 28th October

Christmas sing-a-Longs Rabbits and Squirrels 18th December and Hedgehogs and Foxes 20th December 16th

“FROGS” News Friends of Growing Places (Parent Committee)



A huge thanks to Becci Miller and Natalie without whom our Trigger Christmas evening would not have happened! Also to all the staff and parents who helped and supported the evening.

We have a couple of lovely fun raising events already booked for this year but would appreciate some help and ideas to make them successful.

We will be meeting on Monday 23rd January at 1.45pm in the nursery and again Tuesday 24th at 7pm at the Oast and Squire for anyone who can only make evenings. Please do come along for a drink and a chat. PLEASE LET SHEILA KNOW WHICH MEETING YOU CAN ATTEND.

St Columbia Primary school have mentioned a summer fair, we would like to discuss if we would like to be part of this.

Holiday Clubs provide you with peace of mind through the long school holidays, occupying even the most active of children. Additionally, regular day and overnight camping trips are organised to ensure children experience numerous outdoor challenges and hands-on activities.

GROWING PLACES webpage / Facebook

Website information: www.growingplaces.org.uk

Please also see our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/growing.places.media>



TOILET TRAINING

We are here to support you with toilet training please read page at the end which has tips to make it a less stressful time.

☞ Do not feel under pressure to toilet train your child. Generally the later it is left the quicker and less stressful it is. This

is because the child's understanding and physical development is at a better stage. We have not yet had a child go to school in nappies! If you try to get your child out of nappies too soon you may be setting him/her up to fail. Your child will become distressed and it may take a lot longer. The recommended time is the summer following the second birthday, or Spring if your child is born at the end of the year. This is because your child is older, the weather is warmer, less layers of clothes are needed and washing dries faster!

- ☞ Your child needs to be able to let you know they have done a wee. Unless his/her nerve endings are developed enough to be able to sense this he/she will not be able to begin to control the bladder muscles.
- ☞ Once you have decided to begin it is good to be at home for a few days to avoid confusion and distraction.
- ☞ Do not insist your child sits on the potty too often. This can cause distress. Min 40 min to an hour you can remind and encourage.
- ☞ Pull ups give the same feeling as a nappy and children become confused as to when they can/cannot wee. Once in pants keep to pants. When travelling remove trousers and skirts and put a plastic bag on the seat covered by a towel. This way you will only have pants to change if there is an accident.
- ☞ Make sure clothing is easy to remove. **Jogging bottoms are best.** Jeans and trousers look good but are a nightmare for children (and staff) to remove in time when there is an urgent need for the toilet.
- ☞ Keep lots of spare clothes handy, including socks.

Do remember that the nursery is busier than home and children become easily distracted. They do not want to leave their play and will put off going to the toilet. Staff will remind and encourage the children regularly to try the toilet but we cannot force children to sit on potties or the toilet- nor would we wish to do so.

Consequently children may have accidents at nursery when at home they have none. If this happens do not tell your child off but share with the staff, in the child's hearing, how clever he/she has been to give positive reinforcement and give your child a reason to want to succeed.

If problems do arise there are times when prompts may be useful such as sticker charts, do discuss this with staff if you think it will help.

These are the stores that have boxes for tokens with our name on them for Growing Places @ Little Oaks

*** please note - collect tokens from any store during this period and we will be happy to drop them off to the relevant store, if it is not convenient to you.**

| store | location |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| WOOTTON BRDGE IOW EXP | PO33 4LX |
| LAKE - SANDOWN ROAD | PO36 9EH |
| RYDE EXTRA | PO33 1QS |
| VENTNOR HI ST EXP | PO38 1LT |
| ROWNER GOSPORT EXP | PO13 9XJ |
| GOSPORT | PO13 8DL |
| GOSPORT FORTON RD EXP | PO12 4TL |
| LEE SOLENT MARINE EXP | PO13 9LD |
| TANHOUSE LN SOTON EXP | SO30 2ZS |
| LOCKSHEATH SOTON EXP | SO31 9NZ |
| WHITELEY | PO15 7LL |
| FAREHAM | PO16 0LE |
| HEDGE END SOTON EXP | SO30 2US |
| PORTSMOUTH BRUNEL RD | PO12 FT |

To check the location of any of the above stores, please go to the Tesco website here:
<http://www.tesco.com/store-locator/uk/>