

Dear Parents and Carers,

Next week you will be able to **meet with your child's key person** to discuss your child's development and learning. Please sign up for a time that suits you.

Many of you will be looking at **primary schools** now ready to apply in January. Making your choices can seem daunting. **I am happy to talk this through with you if that would help.** Please email Trini on pa@guildfordnsc.surrey.sch.uk if you would like a telephone conversation or a meeting with me.

As well as visiting potential schools, it is worth:

- Looking at their websites.
- Asking for opinions of current and past parents on local forums.

When you are visiting you might want to consider and/or ask:

- Is the headteacher passionate about their school and happy to answer all your questions?
- Do the children in the classrooms appear interested and actively engaged in their learning?
- How does the school deal with behaviour?
- How does the school support children with additional needs?
- How does the school settle new children?
- How can parents get involved in school life?
- Ask about what is important to you, for example you may want your child to be able to spend time outside so ask about Forest School, how much time reception children are allowed to learn outside.



One of the **most important things that a parent can do** to support their child's development and learning is to share a book with their child each day. This only needs to take 5-10 minutes. You need a quiet moment with no TV or phone. At nursery we share books with the children daily but nothing beats a quiet moment 1:1 with a parent. Sharing books does not necessarily mean reading the book cover to cover.

The following are all reading activities we do at nursery school:

- Talk together about the pictures on a few pages, e.g. What can we see? I wonder what is happening? What do you notice?
- Use the pictures to tell the story.
- Explain what is happening in the language that you and your child use at home.

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- Make sure that your child knows what each thing in the picture is called, e.g. does your child know that the big grey animal with a long trunk is called an elephant?
- Explore the letters in the words, can they find a letter from their name?
- Play with the words, e.g. come up with words that rhyme with a word in the book: cat, hat, rat etc.
- A word in the book starts with an 'S', can you think of other things that begin with an 'S'?
- And be prepared to share the same book over and over again! Whilst this can be a bit tedious of us adults, it is really important for children.

You can borrow books from the nursery. At Hazel Avenue you can borrow books on Tuesdays and Thursdays at drop off and pick up times.

On our website, you will find many favourite books being read by members of staff:

[Home Learning | Guildford Nursery School and Family Centre, Guildford, Surrey UK \(guildfordnscs.surrey.sch.uk\)](http://guildfordnscs.surrey.sch.uk)

On Tuesday 8 November we will be launching the **Community Cupboard** on our Hazel Avenue site.



It can be accessed by anyone as a way to share or collect food and hygiene products. The Community Cupboard is located by the buggy park at the front of the building.

To donate to the Community Cupboard items can be left in the box located in reception Monday – Friday.

Staff will sort the donations and put them on display for people to collect on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays, 8:30am - 3:15pm**, during term time.



We are able to accept sealed shelf-stable foods that are within the use-by date, such as cereals, tea, biscuits, fresh fruit and vegetables, tinned and jarred foods; and toiletries.

We are currently unable to accept items that require refrigeration, cooked foods or foods that are unlabelled or out of date.

If this new venture is a success, we will start a Community Cupboard at York Road too.

Kind regards

Sally

Headteacher



Dates for your diary:

7 November: **Parent meetings** with your child's key person. Please sign up for a time with your child's key person.

18 November: **Children in Need day**, children can come to nursery wearing spots and/or stripes.

Week beginning 21 November: **Come and do Christmas crafts** at nursery. Parents can come to nursery and do Christmas crafts with the children. Your key person will be in touch to arrange days and times.

28 November: **Nursery closed** for staff training.

8 December: **Christmas jumper day**.

14 December: **Christmas songs** by the children for parents at 11.30am and 2.45pm

15 December: **Term ends** at the usual time.

16 December: **Christmas parties**, your child will be invited to a party at:
either 9.30am-10.30am OR 11am-12pm

19 December – 4 January: **Nursery closed**.

5 January: **Children return to nursery**.