



**Happy New Year,
The weather's getting chilly.
With a sad and heavy heart,
We say farewell to Gilly.**

So sorry for the delay this term, I have been waiting to finalise one or two things first. Hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and thank you so much for all our lovely gifts.



Staff Developments

Charlotte had a beautiful baby boy 'Freddie' in January and both are doing really well. Chelsea has replaced Charlotte in the baby unit, she has worked in a baby unit previously and has lots of experience in this age group. Amy is due to have her baby in May and will be starting her maternity leave in April. I will keep parents posted with any changes in staffing as they occur and as always the continuity and consistency for the children is paramount.

It is with great sadness that we will be saying farewell to Gilly who is retiring in March after 21 years in nursery, she started when the nursery first opened. She is with us for 2 days a week but will be sorely missed by staff, parents and children. Hayley Roberts will be employed in the baby unit on a full time basis to cover for Gilly's days and more. She is almost finished with her level 3 qualification and some of you may remember her working for us in the baby unit about a year ago. We pride ourselves on a low turnover of staff and I can only reiterate that the children's needs and care will continue to be at the top of our agenda when managing these changes.

Refurbishments

We are hoping to update the pre-school toilets and cloakroom during the Easter break and as always will try to keep any disruption to a minimum.

Email

I would like to update the database and will be sending out invoices and future correspondence via email. Please would you ensure that we have the correct primary email address and that all contact details are up to date. If you would prefer a paper copy then please indicate on the group sheet.

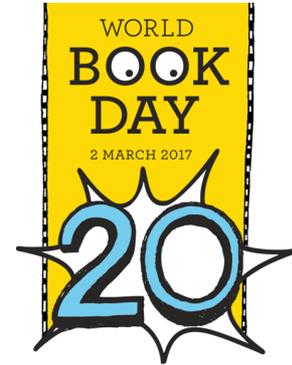
Parent Partnership

We pride ourselves on working hard to build up relationships with our parents and communication is key to meeting those needs. We regularly share information through daily diaries, learning journeys, next steps etc. If you feel that there is more that we could do to facilitate this I would welcome your thoughts. We have in the past tried to form a parents forum but with little success

and we do try to establish good home nursery links. Any feedback form yourselves would be much appreciated.

World Book Day, Thursday 02.03.17

We would love the children to come dressed as their favourite book character to celebrate the day and everyone will receive a £1 book token. This is the 20th year there's been a [World Book Day](#), and on **2nd March 2017** children of all ages will come together to appreciate reading. Very loudly and very happily. The main aim of World Book Day in the UK and Ireland is to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading by providing them with the opportunity to have a book of their own.



Fees

As always I will be reviewing fees and will inform you all before April of the new increase. There are several factors affecting us this year over and above general inflation. As from April the minimum and living wages will increase together, (this is the second increase of min wage this year) by 30 and 10 pence respectively. Auto enrolment is now in place for all staff and this will be increased again in November and finally the government are extending the funding entitlement for some 3 and 4 year olds from 15 to 30 hours. This has a considerable effect to us as a small business as the hourly funding rate falls short of our hourly rate. As always I will try to keep increases to a minimum.

Reminders

7:30 am is the earliest that we can let parents leave children in our care. I'm really sorry if a few minutes seems churlish, however in the past it is has become earlier and earlier and staff are struggling to get set up for the day.

Absences: If at all possible please give us a call or drop us an email to let us know of any illness or holidays.

Dates for the Diary

02.03.17 World Book Day, 'Dress as a book character'

24.03.17 Red Nose Day

14.04.17 Good Friday, Nursery closed

17.04.17 Easter Monday, Nursery closed

01.05.17 Bank Holiday, Nursery closed

