



Autumn Term 2 Letter November 2018



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back after the half term break.

For those of you I haven't yet had the chance of meeting, I am Sam, the new Manager. It has been a pleasure to become part of the Little Pippins team along with meeting all your lovely children. I am hoping that now I have had a chance to settle in and learn all the children's names, I will be able to pair them up with their parents and get to know you all too! If you have any questions or would like to know anything about my previous early years experiences and roles, please come and have a chat.

This term our main theme will be around **'Remembering, Reflecting and Celebrating'**. This is always a very exciting term with the run up to Christmas. Over the following weeks we will be learning about Diwali, remembering those 'heroes who didn't wear caps', practising road safety, raising money for the Children in Need Appeal, celebrating National Nursery Rhyme week along with all the exciting Christmas craft, cooking activities and celebrations. All of the activities and opportunities available each day for the children will thread into a mixture of child and adult led opportunities and activities, with lots of encouragement for imaginary play. The planning each week will reflect the leads prompted by the children to keep them interested, inspired and inquisitive – the perfect platform for learning.

The room is now set up as a continuous provision, allowing the children to move from one area to another. The purpose of an effective 'continuous provision' is to offer children a constant environment that is safe for them to explore whilst challenging their learning. It should allow children the freedom to explore and become independent in making choices. This is also reflected outside, and the doors are open whatever the weather to create a free flow for the children to explore in and come back to as they choose. Within each of the areas, we ensure that there are opportunities for learning within the prime areas and specific areas. I am very happy to explain how we have tried to implement this into the Little Pippins setting if you would like to know more but below are a couple of links to explain how we encourage and support children's learning and how this links into their next steps with the main aim of them being 'school ready'.

<https://cornerstoneseducation.co.uk/continuous-provision-early-years/>

[https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS\\_Parents\\_Guide-amended.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf)

### **What does being "school ready" mean?**

- having strong social skills
- can cope emotionally with being separated from their parents
- are relatively independent in their own personal care
- have a curiosity about the world and a desire to learn

Here are a few 'school ready' links, which give you an idea of the types of things you can be working on at home too!

[https://www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Website-files/school%20ready/PACEY\\_preparingforschool\\_guide.pdf](https://www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Website-files/school%20ready/PACEY_preparingforschool_guide.pdf)

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Website-files/PACEY%20general/Steps-to-starting-school.pdf>

**So what are we going to get up to this term . . . .**

**Week commencing: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Diwali** – We all enjoyed this week, especially Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, celebrating Diwali with some of our families from India. We learnt about India, the story of Diwali and were able to dress in traditional costumes and take part in craft activities. We will continue with some of these activities for the rest of the week so all the children are able to get involved. Do have a look at the beautiful model on the table next to the self-registration board which explains the story behind Diwali.

It is so lovely to share in this celebration so if there are any festivals you would like to mark, please do let us know.

**Remembrance** – We have linked with Harwell school and painted stones with poppies on this week and the children have learnt a little bit about our brave men and women who protected our country in the war. We have been for a walk today to place the stones by the monument so do go and have a look. The children decided to place the stones ‘in a path’. We have called it ‘The Path of Remembrance’. Do ask your child about the purple poppies and what they represent!

**Week commencing: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**Road Safety week and Children In Need**

We will be learning about road safety and supporting Children In Need. Whilst Friday (16<sup>th</sup> November 2018) will be our official dress up day for Children in Need, all the children are invited to dress up any day next week and we will share their costumes at nurture time and talk a little bit about what Children in Need is about. We are asking for a one-off suggested donation of £1 and all money donated will be given to the Children in Need Appeal. There will be a variety of activities through out the week to reflect on both Children in Need and Road safety so if you have anything you would like to share, please do let us know.

**Week commencing: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

**National Nursery Rhyme Week**

The children will be learning some new nursery rhymes, making puppets and we will be introducing some ‘literacy sacks’ for the children to borrow, so they can share these at home with their families – more information on this scheme to follow.

**Week commencing: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

The Christmas count down begins .....

There will be lots of excitement as we introduce ‘Cookie’ the Christmas Elf, make a preschool advent calender to help with the count down to Christmas, along with all the other lovely Christmas decorations and cooking activities. There will be the Christmas Nativity to look forward to, the Christmas boogie Beats session and of course finishing with the Christmas party!

More details about all these exciting activities will follow as we get nearer the time but we will aim to use the whiteboard outside the main door to communicate what the children have been up to during the week or for reminders of specific dates.

**If there are any concerns or questions relating to any of the above planned activities, please do come and have a chat with us.**

## **Key Dates**

Little Pippins Committee Meeting - 7.30pm Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November followed by

Little Pippins AGM at 8pm.

Harwell Primary School Open Morning/Evening – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Children In Need Dress up week – week commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November

Harwell School Christmas Fair – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2018 - including Little Pippins Christmas Tree Festival and Santa's Grotto.

Attending Harwell School Nativity – tbc December.

Christmas Nativity Performance – **TBC** - Provisionally Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Little Pippins Christmas Party – Harwell Village Hall – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am – 12:30pm.

Please note that there will be no preschool session on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December. We will be meeting at Harwell Village Hall instead for the party. Specific details for this event will follow shortly.

End of Term – 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12:30pm (collect from Village Hall - no afternoon session)

Start of Term – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

## **A few reminders –**

### **Absence**

If your child is going to be absent from preschool on their allocated days could you please let us know, either before hand or on the morning of their allocated session. This is not us being nosy! We have a duty of care to ensure all our families and children are safe so will be calling you to check in if we haven't heard from you within an hour of their session starting.

### **Tapestry**

Don't forget to check your child's Tapestry account at least once a week and we would love to see what adventures your child has been up to at home. If you are unable to access Tapestry please let a member of staff know and we will reset the password for you.

### **Snack**

As the weather gets colder the children enjoy having a warm snack so as well as fruit contributions of crumpets, tea cakes and even bread would be great, thank you.

### **Appropriate clothing**

As the weather gets colder, named gloves and warm coats are essential for playing outside and impromptu trips around the village. No scarves please.

If your child comes into pre-school in wellington boots they will need a pair of indoor shoes to pop on.

## **School Applications for September 2019**

If your child is due to start school in September 2019 the deadline for receipt of primary and infant school applications is 15 January 2019.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/admissions-infant-and-primary-schools>

## **AGM – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 8pm**

All parents are invited, speaker on Read, Write and Ink and information regarding Tapestry.

We are very much looking forward to another term full of fun and excitement!

Sam and the Little Pippins staff team