



Newsletter: Tuesday 25th April 2023

School Office:

enquiries@gamesleyeec.derbyshire.sch.uk

01457 860456

Pastoral Manager: Tammy Snape: 07922 576932

Dear Families,

I am so pleased and excited to have been offered the role of headteacher of the Nursery and am really enjoying getting to know the staff and of course, your lovely children. If I'm not in Nursery I'll be at the school so you can always track me down! Either leave a message with Beth in the Nursery office or give the school a ring on 01457 853721 if you need to speak to me about anything at all.

Other school staff who will also now be working in the nursery include:

Ms. Caroline Sutherland

Ms. Sutherland is now acting as the Nursery SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator). She has been the school SENDCo for five years and has strong links with other agencies including Behaviour Support, CAMHS and the Educational Psychologist. Ms. Sutherland is aware of the nursery children who have been identified as having additional needs and will be working closely with staff to ensure they are fully supported. If you would like to speak to Ms. Sutherland, please let Mrs Beth Evans in the Nursery office know and she will pass on the message.

Mrs Tammy Snape

Tammy is now acting as the Nursery Family Support Worker and Pastoral Manager. Her role includes safeguarding and parental support. Her mobile number can be found at the top of this newsletter and you can text or message her at any time. Tammy checks her work mobile first thing every working day and will always get back to you as quickly as possible.

Teacher Strike Action: Thursday 27th April

The Nursery will be closed to all children this Thursday because of National Strike action. Thank you for your understanding.

Equipping your Child for Nursery



I know that previously the Nursery has provided coats and wellington boots for outdoor play, but these have now seen better days and in many instances do not fit the children properly so we will be just be keeping these as spares. Instead we ask that you send your children to Nursery dressed in comfortable, practical clothing that allows them to participate fully in every aspect of school life. Please be aware that sometimes they may be returned to you at the end of each session slightly muddy or paint splattered and that this is just a sign that they have had a great time! So, don't send them to Nursery in their "best" clothes but do make sure they have:

- A waterproof washable coat – we try to get outside whatever the weather!
- Water repellent shoes with good grip – Velcro fastening trainers are ideal.
- A set of spare clothes including socks in a draw string bag which we can keep in Nursery in case of accidents.
- A named book bag to transport books and other learning materials to and from the Nursery.

Don't forget to name EVERYTHING!

The Curriculum



Beginning on Tuesday 2nd May, the September 2023 school starters will take part in daily short reading and maths lessons with their teacher Mrs Kerrie Wood-Doyle. In addition, all the Nursery children will access a new and exciting curriculum in every session.

Our first new project is called "Sunshine and Sunflowers". Your child will explore their local environment and see how it has changed throughout the year. They will grow flowers, fruit and vegetables in the garden area. They will learn how to care for plants and animals, identifying some different types. They will take part in outdoor learning activities and find out how to stay safe in the sun.

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- Growing some quick growing plants together, such as salad leaves, radishes or cress.
- Planning and going on a picnic.
- Going on a local walk and talking about the changes that have happened to living things throughout the year.
- Sharing and discussing the "***Did you know?***" resource that our September 23 starters will be bringing home next week.

Reading in Nursery and at Home

Those of you who already know me from the Primary School, will also know that I am committed to ensuring that every child develops a love of books and reading. This term we will be introducing a daily phonics lesson for all the children who will be starting school in September 2023. The scheme we will use is called *Read, Write, Inc. Phonics* and like all phonics schemes, it teaches children the sounds in English, the letters that represent them, and how to form the letters when writing. The children will quickly feel confident and successful, and those who transfer to Gamesley Primary school in September will continue to be taught using the same scheme there meaning they can make the best progress possible. You can find out more about our approach to teaching phonics here:



[Parent guide to Read Write Inc. Phonics - Oxford Owl](#)

The children will continue to bring books home each week to share with you. They won't be able to read these independently at this stage, but may be able to retell the story to you or spot some familiar words and letters. Most importantly, your child will also enjoy hearing you read the book to them – and probably more than once! Children love to hear familiar stories read over and over again to them; and this along with chatting to them and asking questions is the best possible way you can help them get ready for school life.

Don't forget we are also lucky to have a lovely library right on our doorstep. It has a great selection of children's story and information books and once you join, it's absolutely free to borrow books for you to read to your child at home.

Start and Finish of Nursery Sessions

Just a reminder of the timings of each session. Mornings start at 8.30am and finish at 11.30am and afternoons run from 12.00 to 3.00pm. Please make sure your children arrive on time so they don't miss any valuable learning and that you are also ready to collect them at the end of each session so staff are free to tidy and set up for the next day.

From Tuesday 2nd May, all the Nursery children will be taught together in the large classroom at the back of the nursery and will access both outdoor play areas. So, from next Tuesday, all children should be dropped off and collected via the Geoffrey Allen Centre gate. To ensure the safety of the children, the gate will be closed at 8.35am and again at 12.05pm so late arrivals should be brought to the front office instead.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 27 th April	Nursery Closed due to strike action
Monday 1 st May	Nursery Closed: Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 nd May	All children start to enter and leave Nursery via the Geoffrey Allen Centre gate.
Friday 5 th May	Coronation celebrations
Monday 8 th May	Nursery Closed: Coronation Bank Holiday
Friday 26 th May	Nursery closes for half term holiday
Monday 5 th June	Nursery opens for Summer Term 6

Kindest regards,

Deborah Meredith