

February 2025 Newsletter



Lost Property:

A reminder to all parents to ensure all clothing that is brought into nursery school has your child's name in it.



Extras:

We offer a breakfast club, where you can drop your child off at nursery at 8am and we will give them a light breakfast of toast or cereal. They will then join the regular session at 8.30am. The cost of this is £3.00 per day.

We also currently have space in our lunch club. This runs from 11.30am to 12.30pm. You would need to provide a packed lunch, or purchase a hot lunch, which we are starting to trial soon. The cost to attend the lunch club is £5.00. The hot lunch cost will cost an extra £2.80.

If you are interested on either of these, please let Sarah in the school office know – bursar@chalveyeyc.slough.sch.uk

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

World Book Day:

Thursday 6th March 2025 is World Book Day, and we will be celebrating by inviting children to come to nursery dressed as their favourite book character. A voluntary donation is welcome and will go towards the end of Summer celebrations. All children will be given a £1 book voucher.

Parent Consultations:



This term's parent chat's will be taking place between Monday 17th March and Tuesday 25th March 2025.

You will shortly be given the date/time for your meeting. Please note: We may be able to change the time of the consultation, but the day is fixed. If you wish to change the time, please contact Sarah in the office. Also, if you don't plan on attending, please let Sarah know, so that the slot can be freed up.

As timings are tight, please ensure you arrive on time, so that you have the full allotted time to chat with the keyworker.

Last Day of Spring Term:



Friday 4th April 2025 is the last day of our Spring Term. To allow the staff to complete home visits for the new children starting in April, and so that we don't have to close the school to facilitate this, we have decided to run shorter session times on this day.

AM children's session time will be 8:30am to 10:30am

PM children's session time will be 11:00am to 1:00pm

30hr children's session time can either finish at 10:30am, 1:00pm or 2:30pm, as pre-arranged. Please note there is no option for the extra hour on this day.

Please let Sarah know your choice so we can make sure your child is ready to leave.



Parent Donations:

We welcome donations of fruit/vegetables for snack time, flour for making playdoh, porridge oats for early writing skills, and boxes of tissues. Thank you to those parents who have already contributed.



New Funding for 2 Year Olds:

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of 2-year-olds will be able to access 30 hours childcare funding. If you have 'Working Parents' funding for 2-year olds, this will automatically qualify you for 30 hours. Just sign in to your Government Gateway account to apply.



Reception Place:

If your child's date of birth is between 01/09/2020 and 31/08/2021, you should, by now, have applied for their Reception Class School. If you haven't, you have missed the deadline, but can contact **Slough Borough Council's School Admissions Team**. You should hear about your child's Reception place offer around 16th April 2025. Any questions, concerns or issues should be directed straight to **Slough Borough Council's School Admissions Team**. The Nursery has no involvement in this process.



Parent Workshops:

Diane Lister, who runs our toddler playgroup and has over 40 years of teaching experience, will be running our next parent workshop on Wednesday 12th March 2025 - 10.15am to 11.15am and 12.45pm to 1.45pm. It will focus on early maths.

Then on Wednesday 26th March 2025, same times, she will be running a phonics workshop.

Spaces are limited and pre-registration is essential. If you wish to attend, please email Sarah in the school office (bursar@chalveyeyc.slough.sch.uk)



New Entrance:

When we return after half term, the new pick up / drop off gate will be via the car park on the other side of the building. You will walk along our building towards the fenced area.

Please note, it's still a private car park, and not for parents to use, unless specific permission has been given by our nursery.

What have we been doing this half term?

Since we have been back in nursery after the Christmas holidays we have been very busy learning new skills through lots of exciting activities. One morning in nursery, some footprints appeared and we discovered that they were from a dinosaur. Lots of us like dinosaurs and we have spent time learning the different names and making our own dinosaurs. We made our own dinosaur footprints and counted how many dinosaurs we could find.

Our book for the half term is Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have retelling the story using props and story maps. We have also made our own Three Bear stories and the adults have been writing them down for us so we can share them at home. We have acted the story and dressed up as the bears. In maths, we have been learning about the concepts big, medium and small. We have been measuring each other using blocks and looking at our different sized shoes. We have also been on a size hunt in the garden, seeing what is bigger than us and what is smaller than us. In the garden we have been exploring the changes that happen in the weather. We have played in the snow and caught snowflakes on black paper to see what they look like. We have caught raindrops and drips in containers so we can measure how much there is. We have left water in the trays in the garden overnight to see what happens to it when it gets cold outside. We have also been looking at what happens if we draw using chalks in the rain and how our pictures change. We have been learning how to take safe risks through climbing on to different objects and jumping safely off of them.

What will we be doing next half term?

In February, we exploring our favourite stories we like to listen to and creating our own stories. As part of National Storytelling Week, we will be coming to nursery in our pyjamas and sharing different bedtime stories as well as taking part in lots of exciting activities linked to books.

Our next story we will be focusing on is Peace at Last. This story links phonics learning, where just like 'Mr Bear' we will be listening to the world around us and spending time identifying the sounds in our environment, such as planes, birds, and rain. By doing this we are getting our ears ready to listen to letter sounds when we go to Reception. We will begin to look at how other cultures celebrate special times, starting with Chinese New Year. We will be listening to the story of Chinese New Year, trying to use chopsticks and making our own dragon to perform a dragon dance.

In the garden, we will continue to explore the different types of weather and looking at all the changes that are happening as we look forward to Spring. We will be making dens using different materials, exploring how water can move different objects and how we can mark make on different surfaces in different weather conditions

Outdoor learning.

At Chalvey Nursery School we believe that every moment is a learning opportunity. We know that children learn through outdoor play whatever the weather, which complements and enhances their indoor learning. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, which is dictated by the government, states 'Providers must provide access to an outdoor play area' For this reason, children are able to choose between playing inside and outside for most of the Nursery session regardless of temperature or weather. We will never stop children playing outside because of the weather.

Through outdoor play we aim to:

- Promote good quality, challenging, safe and accessible play for all children.
- Provide well-planned engaging activities, complimenting those indoors.
- Provide an environment to extend and improve children's learning and well-being regardless of the weather.
- Make the most of an environment over which we have little control.
- Fulfil the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage

The outdoors also provides learning, teaching and caring opportunities where children can:

- Be independent.
- Be inventive and creative.
- Make their own choices and decisions
- Take risks and solve problems
- Learn and play in diverse groupings, which are not always controlled or supported by an adult.
- Develop individual interests and find own boundaries.
- Communicate, co-operate and negotiate with others.
- Experience a sense of adventure, excitement and fun.
- Develop fine and gross-motor skills
- Develop physical skills for supporting emotional wellbeing.
- Develop an appreciation of things seen, touched, smelt and heard.
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder in the natural world.
- Experience the seasons in all their richness.
- Engage in new experiences.

Illness and the outdoors

There is always a concern that if children get wet or play in the cold that they will become ill. This is a myth that many people have grown up with. Research has proven that cold outdoor temperatures and being wet does not put us at any greater risk of getting catching a cold, cough or getting sick. Viruses make us sick. These viruses are more easily transmitted indoors, which is where we tend to spend more time during the colder months and during inclement weather. Studies have shown that children who are active outside have the best overall health. Physical activity gives your immune system a power surge for a full 24 hours. A stronger immune system leads to less illness and less use of antibiotics. Outdoor play helps to stimulate a child's immune system, create healthy sleep patterns, and encourages creative thinking and fundamental movement skills. A rainy play session stimulates the brain by exposing children to sights, sounds, smells, and textures they would not otherwise experience.

Dates for your diary:

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| Wednesday 5 th February 2025 | Bedtime Story Day |
| Friday 14 th February 2025 | Last Day of Spring 1 Half Term |
| Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February 2025 | Half Term – Nursery Closed |
| Monday 24 th February 2025 | Start of Spring 2 Half Term |
| Wednesday 5 th March 2025 | INSET Day – NURSERY CLOSED |
| Thursday 6 th March 2025 | World Book Day |
| Wednesday 12 th March 2025 | Early Maths Workshop |
| Wednesday 26 th March 2025 | Phonics Workshop |
| Friday 4 th April 2025 | Last Day of Spring Term |
| Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April 2025 | Easter Break – Nursery Closed |
| Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 | Start of Summer 1 Half Term |
| Friday 25 th April 2025 | INSET Day – NURSERY CLOSED |
| Monday 5 th May 2025 | Bank Holiday – Nursery Closed |
| Friday 23 rd May 2025 | Last Day of Summer 1 Half Term |
| Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025 | Summer Half Term – Nursery Closed |
| Monday 2 nd June 2025 | Start of Summer 2 Half Term |
| Friday 18 th July 2025 | Last day of Summer Term |
| Monday 21 st July 2025 | INSET Day – NURSERY CLOSED |
| Tuesday 22 nd July 2025 | INSET Day – NURSERY CLOSED |
| Wednesday 23 rd July 2025 | INSET Day – NURSERY CLOSED |

The safeguarding of children is of the utmost importance.

If you have any cause for concern, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Team:

Miss Lister – Safeguarding Lead
Miss Hualde – Deputy Safeguarding Lead
Mr Siddiqui – Safeguarding Governor