

HELLO May

Dates for your Diary

31st May	Bank Holiday
31st May -4 June	Half Term
10th June	Concept Photography
w/c 19th July	Graduation -date TBC
23rd July	Summer Hols Begin
31st July	Summer Fete
9-13th August	No funding

Staff Changes/ Updates

We are delighted to welcome back Sophie Walker (previously Rhodes) to our baby and toddler room! We are sure you will make her feel welcome.

We also say a sad farewell to Kate and Jess who both move on to new ventures. We wish them both the very best.

As a reminder, Our room leaders are: Charlie (Bumblebees), Carolann (Caterpillars) and Sophie F-B (Butterflies).

Summer Fete

We will be creating a flyer shortly but would like to invite our parents in the first instance to book a stall at our Summer Fete! Cost is £10 per table and we welcome all types of food, drinks, craft stalls etc. All we ask is that each stall donate to our raffle. This will be held at our sister site, Stickleberries.

We will also be doing a collection for items for our tombola, leaving a box in reception for donations. These can be handed to a member of staff on collection/drop off.

Also, if you know of any local businesses that might be willing to donate to our raffle, perhaps your employers, please let us know. After a tough year, we need all the help we can get!

Appropriate Clothing

With the weather being unpredictable at the moment, can we ask that parents ensure they provide their children with appropriate attire for both warm, wet and cooler weather. We take the children outside in all weathers; therefore, it is vital that children have appropriate attire.

We have made a checklist as follows:

- Changes of clothes (include plenty of pants and bottoms if potty training.)
- Please continue to send your child with a coat/jacket.
- Wellies and a puddle suit for wet days. These can remain at nursery.
- A sun hat and labelled sun cream (sun cream to be kept at nursery if possible).
- **Parents of babies and pre walkers:** Although we understand babies do not necessarily need proper shoes at this age, please can we ask that you supply some form of footwear/covering for your child to wear outside that is waterproof.

Name labels: Please can we ask (BEG!) **AGAIN** for parents to label their children's belongings. This includes clothing, footwear, bags and bottles etc. This not only avoids losses and mix ups, but also assists our staff. You can purchase labels via www.mynametags.co.uk and use the code 17263, which generates funds for the nursery.

Uniform: We would like to thank everyone that has purchased uniform already; but sadly there are still a number of children not wearing Capers uniform. If your child attends our preschool, it is compulsory that they wear our branded uniform. We have a limited supply of second hand uniform available in return for a donation towards resources. If you have not purchased uniform yet, you can do so at:

<https://www.pmgsschoolwear.co.uk/school/caperspreschool>

Uniform consists of a Capers t-shirt/polo shirt and Capers Jumper, fleece or Cardigan. Children can wear their own bottoms such as joggers etc.

P.E Kit for Preschool Children: If your child will be going to primary school next September, please can we ask that your child brings into preschool a named drawstring PE bag containing plimsolls, shorts and a T shirt. These do not need to be branded and are to be kept at preschool on your child's peg. As part of our school readiness programme, we will practise with your child getting changed unaided, so they will be confident in doing this when they start school. We would like to thank all parents who have already provided this



Personal items: Please can we ask that your child only brings items to nursery that are absolutely necessary. This includes food, clothing, drinks bottle, nappies (if required) and a comforter (if necessary, for sleep etc). Please do not allow your child to bring in toys from home. Not only can this cause upset when other children wish to play with these items, but our staff cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to personal items brought to nursery. We must also consider the risk of cross contamination in these uncertain times.

Tapestry and Handovers: All children that attend Capers will have a tapestry account and online learning journey. This is updated daily with observations and details of all naps, food and nappy changes etc. Please can we ask that parents refer to this as opposed to asking staff on collection.

If you do wish to speak to a member of staff, we are always available by phone or by email. In the first instance please call the office and speak to Sandra, to discuss any concerns or queries. She can then set up a phone call with your child's key worker/room leader if necessary.

Illness: More-so than ever, we must remain highly vigilant in terms of illness. If your child is unwell with a temperature or cough, they **MUST** not attend nursery. Any children displaying such symptoms on arrival will be refused entry and told to self-isolate while obtaining a test for COVID-19. We **cannot** accept test results from **Lateral Flow Testing kits**. These are not reliable enough when symptoms are present. You can book a test via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Children displaying symptoms will not be able to return to nursery until test results are proven to be clear. If your child begins to display symptoms while in our care, we will contact you immediately to collect your child. Please let us know if you have updated your telephone number or other contact details, to ensure we are able to contact you.

Disappointingly, we are seeing a number of children being brought to nursery after being given Calpol/Nurofen. If your child is unwell enough to require Calpol, the best place for them is at home. If we know your child has had Calpol prior to arrival, they will be sent home.

Wet bags: In our attempt to be more eco-friendly, we are asking all parents to please provide a reusable waterproof wet bag. This will allow us to send home dirty/wet clothing without the need to use non-recyclable nappy sacks, which end up in land fill. These can be cheaply purchased on eBay. We would like to thank all of you that have already purchased wet bags, it really does make a huge difference.

Packed Lunches: As you are aware, we do not have the facility to refrigerate your child's packed lunch. Therefore, to keep it fresh, please can we ask that parents include an ice pack in their child's lunchbox. Please can we also remind parents that we support Healthy Eating and therefore will not allow your child to have items such as chocolate or sweets. Items containing nuts are also strictly prohibited. As we now provide our own hot lunch option, we will not be able to reheat packed lunches apart from baby food. So please ensure you pack items that can be eaten cold.

Drinks bottles: Please can you ensure that your child brings a named drinks/ milk bottle to nursery every day that they attend. Bottles **MUST** be labelled. As you can imagine, many children have identical drinks bottles, and it is easy for them to become mixed up when they are not named.

****IMPORTANT ** 30 Hours Funding**

For those that already received 30 hours funding, please ensure you reconfirm your child's eligibility every three months. You will receive an email reminder to do this from HMRC approximately four weeks before your eligibility is due to expire, sometimes these emails go into your junk folder, please ensure you check this. If you are unsure, you can check the date you need to re-confirm and carry out the reconfirmation by logging onto your Childcare Services Account (which you created when you applied for the 30 hours code). Clicking on the blue reconfirmation link will take you to the section where you can reconfirm and if your circumstances haven't changed then this is a very quick and simple process. If you have any changes, you will need to amend the relevant details and resubmit the new details.

Tax-Free Childcare: Many of you may be eligible for Tax Free Childcare, to check your eligibility, you can go to <https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare>. This is available, from birth to 18 years of age, and in addition to 30 hours funding if you are eligible for both.

If your child is going to school in September and you receive 30 hours stretch funding, please be reminded that since April, your entitlement until the end of August is reduced to 19.5 hours per week.