



October 2021 – Newsletter

We can't quite believe that we are into Autumn already! The year is just flying by and we are already planning our Christmas events so lets keep everything crossed that we can go ahead with them this year..

COVID

We have decided that we won't ask you to wear masks anymore when dropping off or collecting your little ones. As more and more of the population get vaccinated, and the self-isolation rules have changed we feel that we are able to relax this in our risk assessment. We do ask that you maintain social distancing when staff are taking your children or are feeding back to you, please.

We will still ask any visitors to the nursery to wear a mask as they are not already in our bubble.

We are starting to re-introduce resources into the rooms which the children previously could not access such as play dough and sand which the children have loved. We will still of course be led by the government guidelines, but we will keep you updated.

We will continue to ask you to drop off and collect your children as we have been doing directly into their rooms. We may continue to keep this as we move forward. The children have been so great at getting dropped off in this way and it seems to make it slightly easier for the children to separate from you. This is of course not always the case, but the children definitely come into nursery more feeling more secure and settled this way.

Dates for your diaries

Parents evening for Ladybirds, Daffodils, Butterflies and Sunflowers – 17th November.

*Please ask in your rooms closer to the time for an appointment sheet. We haven't finalised how we will manage this yet, but we will keep you informed.

Photographer

Tidworth – Mon 1st November

Perham – Mon 8th November

Appointment sheets will be available at the end of October.

Christmas Creative mornings – We have decided to go ahead with these this year (guidelines permitting) our plan as it stands today, is as follows

Baby rooms – 1st December 2 – 3 year rooms – 2nd December Pre school – 3rd December

The format won't be as in previous years, but we will let you know the finalised plan closer to the time.

Pre school Nativity

14th December – Tidworth 15th December – Perham Down

We hoping to be able to have parents in this year so let's keep everything crossed.

Christmas Parties for all rooms will be held on Friday 16th December

(this is just for children and staff)

Last day for Christmas 22nd December 2021 returning on 4th January 2022

Please let us know if you are celebrating any other festivals at home with your children so that we can join in here at nursery. We would love to know how we can celebrate here at nursery with your child and their friends.

Health & Safety

Please ensure that you are using the parking spaces which are allocated to parents, at Tidworth this is the top car park and at Perham this is outside the front of the nursery. These are allocated in line with our risk assessment for the safety of your children. Please ensure that children are always accompanied by an adult when in these areas thank you.

On a similar note, we would advise that you do not leave children in the car while you collect your child from the nursery. We do appreciate that if it is raining it is not the nicest of weathers to bring a baby to the door, but we only have your child's best interests at heart and if you end up having to wait then your child could be on their own for more than a couple of minutes.

If your child is not attending nursery due to a contagious illness, please can we ask that you let us know. We ask you to do this so that we can inform other parents and so that we can look out for symptoms in the rest of the children. This is part of our infection control policy, thank you.

New curriculum

Our training day was very successful, and the team are positively up and running with the new curriculum procedures and paperwork. The new curriculum is much more focused on being with the children so that we can extend on learning and interests in the moment, rather than having practitioners sitting out writing lots of things down. This means that when you look through your child's learning journey there may not be as much paperwork as you are used to, but the quality of interactions and activities are still happening, with practitioners being immersed in the children's play and learning which is really the most important thing and what we are here to do.

Please feel free to let us know about successes and achievements at home and we can record these in your child's learning journey for you to look back at in years to come.

If you have any questions about the curriculum then please feel free to speak to your room supervisor, or drop us an email on poppies@poppiesdcn.com

You should be aware of who your child's key person is, if you are not please speak to your room supervisor who will happily let you know.

Policies

We are currently in the process of updating and re-branding our policies to ensure they are up to date and include any recent changes in legislation. These will be uploaded to our website and we will let you know when this has been done. But meanwhile our existing policies are still viewable on the website www.poppiesdaycarenursery.co.uk please pop on and have a look at them.

Questionnaire

We are looking at ways in which we can reduce our carbon footprint and so we will shortly be sending out a questionnaire to ask you your opinions so that we can decide how we move forward. As you already know we are now sending out our newsletters through Connect, and any nursery information requested through email is generally sent out via email and so we would like to continue this trend. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Rituals and Routines

We have begun to implement lots of small changes during the nursery day to make sure that your child is getting the best experience while they are with us – changes which support our ethos of providing a home from home environment for your child. The older children are really enjoying serving themselves their hot lunches and the calming music is working well during our snack and lunch times. We feel it is really important to make every moment a valuable one for your child; whether that is having a nappy change, eating snack or taking part in activities of their choosing.

We mentioned in our last newsletter about not forcing children to wear aprons if they wished to join in a messy activity. This takes down any barriers for children who want to explore or take part but do not want to wear an apron. This has been working really well and more children have had the fun of joining in with activities which they may have previously not, which is wonderful. To this end please may we remind you to send your child in to nursery in clothes which you don't mind getting messy. If your child has an oversized t-shirt which they are happy to wear, and you wish to bring that in then we will aim to work with you on that.

Healthy Eating and Dental Care

The new look EYFS Curriculum puts a lot of focus onto healthy eating and good dental care for children and the government expect us in early years to play an active part in this with you the parents. We have attached 2 links for you regarding both subjects if you wanted to have a look or just get a bit of advice.

We strongly urge you to register with a local dentist so that you can get into good dental hygiene habits early on in your child's life. It also helps (if you are like a lot of us who hate going to the dentist) to make it a familiar fun place to go so that your child has a good relationship with your dentist.

[Looking after your baby's teeth - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[Eating well early years — First Steps Nutrition Trust](#)

Nursery Contact Information

Tidworth 01980 846699

Perham Down 01980 844008

The Cottage 01980 846633

The email for all 3 nurseries is poppies@poppiesdcn.com you can email this address for any general enquiries, extra session requests, to give notice to leave, book holiday, or anything to do with the day to day running of Poppies.

If you have any funding or billing enquiries then you may email Diane on diane@poppiesdcn.com

Please ensure that you are contacting the right person for you query and we will make sure that you get a swift response, thank you.

The Management structure for our new parents is as follows:

Ian Harrison – Managing Director

Vicky Wheelband – Nursery Manager

Victoria Fell – Senior Deputy Manager

Jess Saunders – Deputy Manager

All our room supervisors wear red t-shirts, you can direct any question regarding your child or the room to the supervisor.

Thank you all for your continued support, it is very much appreciated.