

Dear All

This week, following our discussions about busy farmers, we have been harvesting our own produce from the garden! We have been digging up our potatoes and have enjoyed cooking and eating roast potatoes and potato crisps!

We have had some windy days, have tried to catch leaves as they blow off the trees and have used these to line our hedgehog house.

The new shelter build has been great to watch and has led children onto using their own tools, hammering sticks into the garden and fixing our bird feeder.

Next week we will continue our harvest theme and pick our two pumpkins that have been growing in the Nursery garden.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

The Mells Nursery Team

Groups/Areas next week

Group A will be in the **Nest**.
Pick-up & drop-off at the Forest School area gate.

Group B will be in the **Den**.
Drop-off & pick-up at the top gate.

AGM – Monday 9th November

Mells Nursery is run by a group of volunteers and holds an AGM each year, usually during the Autumn term. We welcome your help in any way, whether you would like to join the committee or help with our fundraising. In order to comply with social distancing, we are organising our AGM slightly differently this year. So that we can establish the numbers attending, please could you let us know whether you intend to join the meeting by Friday 23rd October. Once we know the numbers, we will be able to finalise our plans and will let attendees have further information.

Nursery website

We have updated our website with recent photos, please take a look and if we have permission to use your child's photograph in our promotional material, you may spot them.

As we are unable to invite visitors to Nursery at the moment, we have also added a virtual tour which may be of interest to you.



Permissions

We are very conscious that not being able to come into Nursery at the moment must feel very strange for you. As an alternative, we would like to share videos of the children with you and are planning to add these to a password protected page on our website.

To do this, we need your permission and will be issuing an email to you all asking you to respond with your preferences.

We respect that not all parents/carers will wish to do so and we will only upload videos of those children for whom we have received permission. Further details will be included in the email.

Spare phone please?

Does anyone have a spare phone they could donate to Nursery? We are looking to update the Nursery mobile phone and need one capable of taking reasonable photos / videos and using WhatsApp.

Learning Diaries

We are all thoroughly enjoying watching and supporting your children grow and develop. By half term, all children at the Nursery will have had a 'focus week'. During this week, all the adults will have been tuning in to and supporting your child's learning, interests and development. This focus week will be recorded through observations and photographs. On other occasions, we will make observations of children learning something new for the first time or doing something important ('Wow moments'). These photographs and observations then become part of your child's individual learning diary and will build a picture of your child's journey through Mells Nursery. We also realise children will have 'Wow' moments at home and we love to hear about these. Please send these to us in an email message so that we can add them to the Learning Diary.

At the moment, we cannot invite parents in to look at their child's Learning Diary but we are trying to find the best way to share these with you digitally. Please bear with us whilst our plans are finalised and put into practice.

The diaries are a lovely record of your child's learning and development and please be assured that although we are not able to have as many conversations as usual, we would certainly be talking to you if we had any concerns about your child. If you would like a conversation with any member of staff please remember you can always email in the first instance and Katherine will always get back to you either by email or by phone.

Cooking activities

We are harvesting the vegetables we have grown at Nursery and it would seem such a shame if we were unable to cook with them! We are putting systems in place that will allow us to do this as safely as possible with a focus on hand washing, having food prepared by individual children and children only touching and eating the food they have prepared. Please let us know immediately by email if you would prefer your child was not involved in these activities.



Does your child turn 4 before September 2021?

Parents and carers of children due to start school in September 2021 can apply for a school place using the online application form.

The deadline is 15 January 2021 and with the increasing demand for school places it is more important than ever that parents make an on-time application.

Parents can apply by visiting <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/#starting-school> or by contacting Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224 if a paper application form is required.