

welcome BACK^{TO} SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back!

I would like to take the time to welcome you all back to Cottage, with an extra special welcome to all our new families that have joined us this year. Your children are all doing incredibly well, whether it is getting back into the Cottage routine or starting it for the very first time, they have been absolute superstars.

Staff updates

A valued member of our team will soon be going on Maternity leave. Mrs Smith has been an integral part of our team, leading the Caterpillars during their very first term of Nursery, and we are excited for this new Chapter in her life.

During her Absence, we have made arrangements to ensure a smooth transition for our Caterpillars. I am thrilled to let you know that Mrs Healey will be stepping in to Lead our Caterpillars. Mrs Healey has been a part of the Cottage team for over 15 years, she is an amazing practitioner and your children will be in very good hands. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Mrs Smith's last day of work before her Maternity begins will be the 18th of January 2024. I have started a collection, if any would like to contribute please have a chat with a member of staff, we would like to keep this a surprise for Mrs Smith.

Events

Please save the dates

Easter Bonnet - 27 March 2024. Details to follow

FAMILY

We have now fully moved over to our new bookings system. If you have not yet received a login, please get in touch ASAP. Invoices will be uploaded to FAMILY and emailed to you, these can be paid via BACS as normal.

Funding

Please ensure that you apply every three months to keep receiving your full 30 your funding.

You may now apply for 15 Hours of free funding for your 2-year-old. Applications are now open and the funding can be applied in the April term. <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/childcare/childcare-funding/15-hours-funded-childcare-for-2-year-olds>. Applications will need to be made by the **31st of March** in order to receive the funding in the following term. please get in touch if you require any further information.

Claire

Dates to remember

Inset Days

Thursday 28th March 2024

Half-term Holiday

Monday 12th February -
Friday 16th February

Easter Bonnet

Wednesday 27th March
2024

Last day of Spring Term

Wednesday 27th March
2024

First day of Summer Term

Monday 15th April 2024



Newsletter

Reminders

Telephone numbers: Please make sure all emergency and contact details are up to date. We do have a Snow Call List in the event of closure due to bad weather. If the school is closed Cottage is closed, you can check online on the Dorset County Council website for information. We will put it on our Facebook page and Tapestry.

Late payment fee: Please ensure your invoice is paid by the **14th** of each month, failure to do so will result in an automatic £10 late payment fee.

Illness: Please avoid bringing your child into the setting with any contagious illness i.e. Chicken Pox, conjunctivitis, sickness and diarrhoea or if your child is clearly not well. It is a Government recommendation that **48-hour** elapses after suffering diarrhoea or sickness before returning to the setting to avoid the spread of germs.

Egg Allergy: Just a quick reminder that we do have a child with a severe allergy to eggs, this is both in raw form including touching the shell as well as cooked eggs or products containing eggs. Please do not send egg sandwiches or scotch eggs etc in your child's lunch box. Thank you for your support and understanding in this matter.

Nut Allergy: Please avoid sending any foods containing nuts or nut products in your child's lunch box as nut allergies are becoming increasingly common and even the slightest contact with nut products can be dangerous to those children affected. Just to clarify chocolate spread also contain nuts.

Please make sure grapes and cherry tomatoes are cut in half this is to avoid choking.