

# WELCOME JANUARY

## Warminster Bright Beginnings Newsletter

**January 2025**

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Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to you all, and a huge thank you for all the gifts, chocolate and cakes etc given to the staff before the Christmas break. December was a very busy month for us here at nursery. We had a special visit from Santa, made lots of lovely Christmas decorations and even had a party. It was so lovely to see the children really getting into the festive spirit and I hope everyone had a restful and peaceful Christmas break. I would like to offer a warm welcome to all our new families starting with us this new year, it's been delightful getting to know your children over the last week and I look forward to watching them learn and develop over the coming months.

Our Parents/Carers of The Woodlands room will be sad to hear that we will be losing Sarah as she is posted to Cyprus with her family. Sarah has built many relationships with the Parents/Carers and their children over the years she has been here, and we wish her all the best for her new adventure.

As we await for the official amount of government funding to be released, I would like to take this time to advise **ALL** Parents/Carers of the nursery, including those of non-funded and funded children, that due to an increase in employee wages and employers national insurance in April, we will be having to introduce and increase the resource fee to **ALL** Parents/Carers. The total amount and when this will come into effect will be confirmed in the coming months. There is also possibility of an increase to the hourly rate, we will let you know as soon as possible if this is going to happen.

I look forward to what the New Year has to bring, and as always if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff at drop off or pick up.

Kind regards,  
Jo Webster

As well as **NUTS** we now cannot allow **SEAFOOD, SHELLFISH** and **EGGS** within the setting due to allergies; please can you ensure your child's lunchbox is free of **seafood, eggs** and **nuts**. Please find attached to the newsletter examples of alternative recipes for foods such as hummus and pesto.

Foods banned include:

- Tuna/Salmon/Prawn/Crustations/Shellfish
- Crab sticks
- Chocolate Spread/Peanut Butter
- Pesto containing nuts
- Hummus containing nuts
- Mayonnaise
- Egg noodles, egg fried rice
- Eggs (hard boiled, scrambled, in sandwiches, scotch eggs, omelettes, quiche)



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### Government-Funded Childcare

Any Parent/Carer who's child will be entitled to the 30 hours working parent government funded childcare as of September 2025, must email Jo at [warminsterbrightbeginnings@gmail.com](mailto:warminsterbrightbeginnings@gmail.com) ASAP advising what hours you will require due to the increasing demand of full time places. If you have already emailed and secured your hours, then you do not need to email again.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents of children between the ages of 9 months and 5 years old will be entitled to 30 hours of childcare a week.

Like the existing offer, these hours can be used over 38 weeks of the year.

To check your eligibility, go to [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk)

**\*\* Parents/Carers are strongly reminded to check the quarterly emails from HMRC and follow the link to reconfirm eligibility as failure to do so before the deadlines could result in loss of funded hours.\*\***

### Funding and Sustainability Fee

We would like to remind Parents/Carers that any child who is in receipt of the working parent funding will be charged a sustainability fee of £4.00 per day (£2.00 per session) to cover the cost of paper, stationary, paints and pens etc.



### Reheating Food

We must advise that we **cannot reheat rice or chicken on the bone**. Staff are happy to heat lunch time meals for the children however we only have access to a microwave. Please ensure you let staff know at drop off if you have provided food to be reheated.

## Term Topics

### **The Woodlands (0-2 years) Room Leader – Tanya**

This term we will be looking at winter and colours. We will be exploring the different types of animals by freezing small world animals in ice and using tools to dig them out. We will also look at different colours each week and link these to our activities.

### **The Meadow (2-3 years) Room Leader – Lucy**

This term we will be looking at communication and imagination through literacy. We will be looking at books with a similar theme and building our play and language around this.

### **The Treetops (3 – Rising 5's) Room Leader – Jenny**

This term we will be looking at the environment, exploring subjects such as animals, recycling, where we live and the weather. We will also be making papier-mâché globes and opening up a hairdressers.

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### Applying for School

**DEADLINE MIDNIGHT 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025**

May we remind Parents/Carers of children who are to start school in September 2025, that they need to have applied for places by January the 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. Any Parents/Carers that need advice please come and speak to us. Parents/Carers should find out in April if their child has been given a place at their chosen school.

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-applying>

### Telephone Withheld

Please be advised that when you receive a call from the Nursery it will come from a withheld number – so may appear on your phone as 'Caller Unknown'. We will always leave a voicemail on phones that allow this, however if yours does not, then please call us back on 01985 210308 as sometimes this may be a matter of urgency.

### Colder Weather

Parents/Carers must be reminded to always dress your child adequately for the weather and ensure you send your child in with a **labelled** coat, gloves and hat, and a spare change of clothes in case they get wet when playing.

Parents/Carers can also send in a pair of wellington boots and slippers which the staff can change the children into when they come in from outdoor play.



Uniform is now available to purchase and in stock in sizes 2 yrs, 3-4yrs and 5-6yrs. Unfortunately, this has been increased in price which is a charge made by the manufacturer – we do not take any profit as a setting. Sweatshirts will now be £10.25, and t-Shirts will now be £7.00. Please email or see Amy or Jo in the office if you would like to purchase uniform.



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

Please follow us on Facebook for up-to-date news and information, closures, and reminders. This is a private group for parents/carers only. You will find us under Warminster Bright Beginnings.

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## Holidays, Festivals and Events

### January

- 5<sup>th</sup> – Twelfth Night
- 18<sup>th</sup> – Winnie The Pooh Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day
- 24<sup>th</sup> – International Day of Education
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Burns Night
- 25<sup>th</sup> – St Dwynwen's Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> – International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Chinese New Year

### February

- 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> – National Storytelling Week
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Groundhog Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – World Ukulele Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – Children's Mental Health Week
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Waitangi Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Charles Dickens Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Darwin Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> – St. Valentine's Day

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> – St. David's Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – World Wildlife Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pancake Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> – British Science Week
- 8<sup>th</sup> – International Women's Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day
- 20<sup>th</sup> – Spring Equinox
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Red Nose Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Nowruz
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day
- 30<sup>th</sup> – British Summer Time Begins
- 31<sup>st</sup> - Eid al-Fitr

## Dates for your Diary

- 7th March 2025 - Teacher Training Day

**\*Teacher Training Day's for the period of April – July 2025 TBC ASAP.**

### Spring Term Dates 2025

*6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025*

6 <sup>th</sup> January	Return to nursery
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half term
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Return to nursery
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Teacher Training Day
4 <sup>th</sup> April	Break up for half term
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Return to nursery

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### 30 Hours Funding

All children are entitled to 15 funded hours the term after they are three, the government has extended this to up to 30 hours a week for some working families. To be eligible for this funding both parents (working single parents may also be eligible) need to be working 16 hours per week at the National Minimum or Living Wage. To check if you are eligible go to

[www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) If you are eligible, please let us know and we will check our availability to accommodate these hours and we will give you a permission form to put your details on, which will allow us to add your funding code to the portal.

### Nuts and Cutting

Can we remind you that we have a **No Nut** policy and items such as chocolate spread or some chocolate bars can contain nut fillings, can we please ask that all food items are double checked before they are sent in.

Please also ensure foods are cut appropriately when in the children's lunches e.g., cocktail sausages, cherry tomatoes, strawberries, and grapes. These foods need to be **cut in half, length ways** to prevent the risk of choking. Can we also please ask that you use an icepack in lunch boxes to keep lunches cool.

### COVID 19

We no longer require children to be tested for COVID 19, however we do still ask that parents/carers do not bring children to nursery for 3 days following symptoms typical of the virus. For general illness such as a runny nose and cough, children may still attend the setting if they are well in themselves and not taking Calpol for anything other than teething.

### Language and Communication

We will again be having many initiatives running through the setting this year to support the children's language and communication skills. On a regular basis the children in The Meadow and The Treetops enjoy activities taken from the I CAN Babbling Babies, Toddler Talk and Letters and Sounds. Treetops will have two new phonic sounds to learn every other week, your child will be provided with a collection tub and be asked to collect as many objects beginning with the phonic sound of the week. In order to complement this initiative, we will continue to use the Jolly Phonics programme, which supports children's communication skills phonetically. The Meadow will have books sent home, and we encourage parents/carers to read with your child to assist us in building a working partnership with parents/carers. We shall provide examples and information sheets to support you in helping your child.

There will continue to be story sacks available for you to borrow and enjoy with your child. The story sacks will contain such things as a book, soft toy, activity, song sheet and colouring page.

If you are interested in taking one home, please see Jo Webster, Jo Spink or your child's key person. BLAST (Boosting Language, Auditory Skills and Talking) will be carried out with small groups on a six weekly rolling programme. Children in The Woodlands Class will be enjoying activities from Babbling Babies, please speak to your child's Key Person if you would like more information on this.

### Wiltshire Local Offer

Every local authority is responsible for publishing a Local Offer and making sure it is clear, comprehensive, and available for everyone to see.

The Local Offer provides information on the services available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) aged between 0 to 25, and how to access them.

<https://localoffer.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/6206/What-is-Local-Offer-about>

### Late Fees

Due to staff/children's ratios and safety it is extremely important that all children are picked up on time. A late fee of £6 for the first 15 minutes will be charge and an additional £6 for any part of any 15 minutes thereafter. For a child picked up after 4pm a late fee of £20 for the first 15 minutes will be charged and an additional £20 for any part of any 15 minutes thereafter.

## Nut Free Pesto

With an abundance of fragrant basil, there is nothing better than whipping up a quick batch of nut free pesto. It freezes well and enhances the flavour of so many dishes!

Prep Time 5 minutes

Total Time 5 minutes

- 1 cup fresh basil, packed
- 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup grated pecorino romano cheese
- 1/4 cup roasted salted sunflower seeds

### Instructions

1. Combine the ingredients in a food processor and pulse until smooth.
2. Store in the refrigerator for up to a week or the freezer for up to 6 months.

### Notes

Substitutions:

Oil: Any mild-flavoured oil may be used in place of the extra-virgin olive oil.

## Homemade Hummus (Without Tahini)

With just 5 minutes and basic pantry ingredients, you can make the yummiest Homemade Hummus without tahini. This means that it's nut-free, so it's an option for school and allergy families, and it's just perfect for dunking crackers or spreading on bread.

Prep Time 5 minutes

Cook Time 0 minutes

Total Time 5 minutes

### Ingredients

- 14.5 ounce can chickpeas, rinsed and drained (or 2 cups)
- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt (regular yogurt can be used if that's what you have)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 small garlic clove, peeled (optional)
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

### Instructions

1. Place all ingredients into the bowl of a food processor. I prefer to grate the garlic, if using, into the bowl on a fine microplane to ensure that it's evenly distributed.
2. Blend, stopping to scrape down the sides occasionally, until very smooth.
3. If your mixture seems thick or you have trouble blending, you can add a bit of water or a drizzle of olive oil.
4. Serve or store for future use. This pairs well with thinly sliced raw vegetables or crackers or can be spread onto toast or used in a sandwich or a wrap.

### Notes

- Store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to a week. You can also freeze it in portions in an ice cube tray. It may separate when you thaw it out but just stir it up vigorously. Use within 3 days once thawed from frozen.
- Use a blender for a smoother consistency. You may need to add a few tablespoons of water and/or use the stick that came with your blender (if you have one) to get it going well.
- Omit the garlic if you'd like to have a milder flavour.
- Rinse and drain canned chickpeas to remove any excess salt.
- Stop and scrape down the sides of the food processor to ensure that all the hummus is well blended.
- Add a drizzle of water if needed to make the hummus blend more easily if it's seeming too thick.
- Season to taste with salt.
- Use plain unsweetened non-dairy yogurt or sour cream to make this dairy-free.