Dear Parents,

As we get closer to Christmas, it’s important that we keep you all in the loop with what is happening over the next couple of months including dates for the diaries.

**Donations** – We are looking to replace our baby/toddler garden walker and wondered if anyone had any spare walkers they’d be willing to donate to us. Please let Sarah (upstairs) know if you do. Thank you.



**Clothing** – As the weather gets increasing cold and wet, please ensure your child has enough layers during the colder days/months, and appropriate footwear. Feel free to leave a bag with an extra long-sleeved top or a jumper for your child to put on if they feel cold. It may also be a good idea to leave a named hat and a named pair of gloves for your child to wear.

**Absences** – Could we please ask that you contact us if you have any planned or unplanned absences from nursery during the upcoming months. If your child is absent from nursery through illness, please ensure that you contact the nursery before 9.30am.

**School Applications** – If you are applying for a place at Primary school for your child to start in September 2018, you should hopefully know that the application process has already begun. You are now able to nominate your 3 top choices, taking into consideration your location, and either apply online or via post. The application end date is January 15th 2018 so there is some time for you to consider your options. Fortunately, in Sevenoaks we are lucky enough to have a wide range of good Primary schools. If you need any support with this, please don’t hesitate to speak with Stef.

**Going Digital** - For the past couple of months, we have been looking at our record keeping systems and how we communicate your childs’ development to you as well as their day to day activities. During our accreditation visit in October, we discussed the different options available and we have decided that we will be transitioning to a digital format called eyLOG from January 2018.

Staff will be able to spend more time working directly with the children and less time printing our reams and reams of photos for Learning Journals, or sifting through folders full of observations to complete progress checks. Instead, staff will be able to take photographs on the nursery tablet, write their observation, save and then upload it to the secure cloud server through which you can then access it. The online system will allow you view your child’s secure account through the use of an app, where you’ll be able to see what your child gets up to in real time. Once an observation or activity has been published by a member of our team, you will automatically receive a notification, allowing you to see exactly what they have just been doing with us.

You will also be able to upload your own photos and observations from home, helping to form an all-round better picture of your child and their development. As we all know, there are things children do at home that they maybe don’t do at nursery and vice versa. This secure interactive system is easy to use and definitely something we are looking forward to implementing.

*“Security is of key concern in a nursery environment and eyLog takes its security measures very seriously. Each user has a separate user-ID and password and using a role-based access mechanism, a user is permitted to see only the information that is relevant for them.*

*The data captured through the eyLog tablets at the nursery as well as the data provided through the web-interfaces are all stored on secure “cloud” servers located in UK (we use Rackspace which is UK’s leading cloud provider). Very minimal information is stored on the tablets.*

*All communication between the tablets/servers/browsers is through HTTPS and encrypted using SSL (Secure Sockets Layer). You will see the green bar in the browser indicating HTTPS (encrypted) communication”* (taken from the information pack directly)

We are really looking forward to this exciting development and what it will mean for the parents, the staff but most importantly for the children. You’ll be able to sit with them at home and talk to them about their day, seeing for yourself what they’ve been doing. It may take a little while to get used to it, having been paper-based for nearly 30 years, but this is a leap in the right direction and hopefully you’ll be able to see the benefits just as much as we will.

**Important Dates!!**

Monday 4th December – Dress rehearsal of the Christmas Play

Wednesday 6th December – Performance at Hollybush Care Home (for older children only)

Saturday 9th December – Christmas Performance at Bessels Green Baptist Church

Thursday 14th December – Christmas lunch (grandparents of school leavers are welcome to join us for this)

Friday 22nd December – Last nursery day of the year

Tuesday 2nd January 2018 – Staff Inset Day (children are NOT to attend on this day)

Wednesday 3rd January 2018 – First day back for children

That’s all for now!