

Out of the Pot!

Paint Pots Nursery Newsletter

Autumn 2024

A warm welcome to everyone attending our Paint Pots nurseries and preschools, to those who are already with us and to those starting on the early years journey, we are thrilled to have you as part of our Paint Pots family. We hope you had a lovely summer and are now ready for this year's learning adventure. We know that early childhood is a magical time of discovery and growth, and we are honoured to be a part of this journey with you.



At Paint Pots, we believe in providing a nurturing and stimulating environment where every child's unique qualities are celebrated. Nursery and Preschool is a time for children to expand their love of learning, thrive with new-found knowledge, to make friends and to explore the world around them in a safe and caring space. Throughout this term and the rest of the academic year, your child will have the opportunity to engage in a variety of enriching activities and experiences that foster their social, emotional, cognitive and physical development.

We believe that communication is key to a successful partnership between home and nursery. As we begin our new academic year, we encourage open dialogue and invite you to share any questions, concerns, or insights you may have. Our doors are always open, and we look forward to building a strong and collaborative relationship with you. Thank you for trusting us with your child's early education. We look forward to a wonderful term and year ahead.

Safeguarding and why it's important to understand:

We wrote about this in last year's autumn term newsletter but we make no apologies for repeating the information. The safeguarding of our children and the responsibilities we and you have as parents cannot be underestimated. Safeguarding is one of the most important parts of our role in Early Years, it is essential that you as a parent understand this role, your responsibilities and ours, what it means and why we carry out the procedures we do. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and we expect all our parents and other visitors to share this commitment to keep our children safe at all times.



What does safeguarding mean?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Every child has a right to protection from harm.

Safeguarding means:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- Preventing harm to children's health and development
- Ensuring children grown up with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them. The statutory safeguarding and welfare requirements which we are governed by, are designed to help us, Paint Pots, create an environment that is welcoming, safe and stimulating, and where children are able to enjoy learning and grow in confidence.

The manager in each setting is designated to take the lead responsibility for safeguarding the children and staff and the first person you should go to should you have any questions or concerns about any safeguarding or child protection issues.

We also have a group safeguarding lead, Liz McCarthy, (opsmanager@paintpotsnursery.co.uk) should you want to take any concerns further.

If you have a safeguarding issue or concern that you believe might impact on yours or another child's safety and welfare, something that may cause them harm or put them at risk of harm, please come and speak to us. It is important to us, that your child gets the most out of their time with us and communicating and working together with you will help us achieve this.

Please do not feel upset if your nursery manager speaks to you regarding a safeguarding concern or questions something further that you may not think is relevant, they

are just doing their job and ensuring the safety of the children.

Let us know if there is anything that may affect you or your child, so together, we can help provide the right support.

Please read the safeguarding parent advice sheet and our policies available on our password protected Parent Login, to better understand yours and our responsibilities when it comes to protecting our children when they are in our care.

ERIC – The Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity



Knowing when to start potty training is one of the biggest questions you as parents will ponder and one of the most questions we are asked. Much of it comes from pressure from friends and family and a need to keep up with other children in the friend group.

It's important to remember all children are different and the age at which they are capable of mastering potty skills is unique to them.

Your child will not tell you when they no longer want to wear nappies but we can help your child learn toileting skills long before they can start doing things on their own. Think of it as a skill to learn like learning to walk and talk. The more practice they get the easier it will be.

We are here to help, so please don't hesitate to talk to us if you are thinking of making the transition. Patience, a good routine and lots of change of clothes is a good start!

ERIC is the Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity and has some wonderful tips and advice to help you start. The links are below for you to look into.

[Potty training: how to start & best age to potty train - ERIC](#)
[Family webinars - ERIC](#)

Books – Importance of Reading with your Child:

When was the last time you sat and read a story to your child? At nursery, books, words, rhymes and music are part of our curriculum as we believe that books and music ignite so much in our youngest children. It not only has incredible benefits for children bringing them comfort and reassurance, confidence and relaxation, happiness and fun but reading them a story gives a child your time and undivided attention, telling them that they matter. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleeping patterns.

We know that family lives are busy and sometimes hectic and a book can often be exchanged for screen time but we must remember that reading is so important and should be started as early as possible. Make it part of your daily routine, as soon as we understand and make it a form of entertainment, pleasure and relaxation and not a chore, the more enjoyment you will get.





Sharing a story can bring deep joy for all involved, a quiet and relaxed environment works best, with few distractions. Consciously making time and keeping interruptions to a minimum will help your child to grow up with reading and to have a love of books, that will become part of their life forever.

The link below gives lots of ideas for books for all ages.

[Words for Life | National Literacy Trust | Words for Life](#)

FAMILY

You should now all be aware of our new childcare and nursery management website and app which has now replaced Tapestry. Over the last two years we have tested a number of management software solutions and we believe that Family best addresses issues we were having whilst adding a significant amount of functionality which should improve the experiences for parents and staff.

To give a brief overview of just some of the new features in the app: Family will improve our ability to communicate with parents and this should result in easier and more immediate communications in time. It allows us to use a live register, allowing everyone in our settings to quickly manage our child and staff ratios. There is an ability to instant message parents if required and we can transfer our accident and medicine forms onto the app, saving paperwork and keeping records collated together. Family provides live translate options for parents and carers who have English as an additional language and gives parents and carers the ability to make payments directly from the app itself. Finally, Family allows us to share activity ideas and content between Paint Pots settings which should improve the variety and quality of our activities and allow us to capture and keep our best activities for future use.

If you haven't already done so, now would be a good time to sign in using your parent login where you will be able to view activities, access permissions, communicate with staff and setup payment including direct debits. Please talk to your manager in the first instance if you require support, otherwise email accounts@paintpotsnursery.co.uk for payment or invoice queries.

Dates for your Diary:

Half term for Preschool and term time only:

Closed Monday 28th – Friday 01st November.

Closed Wednesday 18th December – Open Monday 06th January 2025

Day Nurseries:

Closed Wednesday 25th December – Open Thursday 02nd January 2025

Harvest Festival September/October

Remembrance Day 11th November

Diwali – Thursday 31st October

Autumn activities

Christmas activities

Christmas Nativity dates will be released for each Paint Pots setting nearer the time.

There will also be one inset day planned for the spring term for each setting. This will be set in addition to our group training day in July 2025 and advised by each individual setting manager in due course.

Further Guidance:

Please find below some useful links to websites that offer advice, support, activities:

BBC Tiny Happy People - Tiny Happy People is a BBC service to help parents develop their child's language skills and offer advice. Explore simple activities and play ideas and find out about babies and toddlers' amazing early development.

[Children's language development and parenting advice - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Help Paying for Childcare - Are you eligible?

At Paint Pots, we offer 9 month, 2 year and 3-4 year old child care hours. Find out if you are eligible in the link below.

[Early Years childcare | Childcare Choices](#)

Online Safety - You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. The links below offer advice and resources to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly and positively.

[Parents Protect - Internet Safety](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

