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Nell Gwynn Nursery School

Gregory Doey, Executive Headteacher
Philippa Baker, Head of School & SENCo

20/10/2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been heartening to see how well children have settled into Nell Gwynn this first half-term. Thank you for working with staff to support your child, enabling them to make the best possible progress. As the half-term holiday approaches (week beginning Monday 27th October), please liaise with staff as to what the next steps are in fostering your child's independence. The half-term is a great opportunity to promote dressing/undressing skills as well as toilet train your child. Please see below for some helpful links and resources:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/sit-your-botty-on-the-potty

https://eric.org.uk/

https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/early-years/zip-zip-hooray-helping-children-develop-independence-in-dressing

Dates for diaries (Autumn 2025):

Friday 24th October – Break up for Half-Term (normal timings apply):
Half-Term: Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October
Monday 3rd November: School resumes and normal timings apply

Wed 10th November: Christmas Jumper Day (raising money for Save the Children UK)

Tuesday 16th December: Christmas lunch
Wednesday 17th December: Christmas parties and visits from Santa
Thursday 18th December: Christmas lunch
Friday 19th December: Last day of term where all children to be collected by 12pm latest
Christmas Holiday: Monday 22nd December 2025 – Monday 5th January 2026 (INSET)
School resumes on Tuesday 6th January 2026 where normal timings apply

Safeguarding:

Mobile phones:
A polite reminder to ensure that you aren't using your mobile phone in the vicinity of children while on site at Nell Gwynn. This protects all our children from any photos or videos being taken and shared without authorisation. By ensuring your phone is not in use or on view, it also protects you. If there is a specific reason why you need to use your mobile, then please wait until you're away from children before taking or making a call.

Please also think about mobile phone use in terms of wellbeing & development as well as e-safety. Young children can be affected negatively by having access to their parent's phones, whether that's viewing inappropriate materials, becoming reliant on having the phone as part of their routine or affecting their eye sight. Children need their parents/carers to be in the moment with them rather than pre-occupied with their phone. Please spend time talking with your child, enjoying their company and this will be beneficial for the both of you. Thank you!

Parking: Please consider road safety for the children in our school, parking further away and walking in unless it is absolutely necessary to be parked close by. Thank you.

Food and allergies: Please remember not to bring food into school unless there is a pre-arranged reason, due to allergies. Breakfast foods are provided in the morning as well as snacks mid-afternoon. Our on-site Catering Manager, Ruth ensures that food is healthy, balanced and she's responsive to any dietary requirements.

Spare clothes: It is helpful if children have a bag of spare clothes (which are labelled), on their pegs. Please remember to take wet and soiled items home and do bring in spare nappies, if your child is currently wearing them.

Updating information: It is vital that we have up-to-date contact details for parents/carers, therefore if you have changed your mobile number or address recently, then please let us know the new details. You can speak with our Admin Manager, Alicia to ensure we have the correct information.

Wellcomm Speech and Language Screening Update:
We are still in the process of screening children and liaising with the Speech and Language Therapy Team. After half-term, we'll be sending out a letter to parents/carers informing of children's individual screening results and next steps.

On behalf of all of the staff at Nell Gwynn, we hope you and your family have a great half-term break. We look forward to seeing you on the other side of the holiday.

Best wishes to you all!

The Nell Gwynn Team