



Dear All,

A huge congratulations to Ellie this week who, after a lot of hard work over the past year, has successfully qualified as Level 3 Forest Schools Practitioner. We are currently liaising with the Parish and County Councils to hopefully secure part of the old school field to develop a dedicated forest school area complete with a mud mound, digging area, bell tent, climbing opportunities and a fire pit area. Should we get agreement we will then need your support and resourcefulness to help us equip and 'build' the area so watch this space!

'What to expect in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS): a guide for parents' has recently been updated to reflect the EYFS reforms which became statutory on 1st September 2021. The guide will help you find out more about your child's learning and development in the EYFS which is for children from birth to the end of their reception year in school.

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

Alongside the statutory framework we are working with the **'Birth to 5 Matters: guidance by the sector, for the sector'** www.birthto5matters.org.uk which we are proud to have contributed to. The purpose of the guidance includes reaffirming core principles which recognise: the child at the centre of practice, the child's connections within family, communities, cultures and the natural world, the need to consider the whole child: physical, social and emotional wellbeing, health and learning, and the child's rights as a member of society under the United Nations Convention on the rights of the Child.

Earlier this week we sent out a letter from the schools with information about booking visits, I hear that these have been very popular so if you wanted to look round either school I would book now if you haven't already – this is for children starting Reception in September 2022. We also have information about visits to Girton Primary, if anyone would like them please let us know. **School applications close in January 2022 so best get them in before Christmas so you don't forget!**

Key dates coming up

Mon 25th to Fri 29th October - **Half term** for term time only children

Weds 3rd November 2021 - **Light & Dark evening** details to follow

Fri 3rd December 2021 – Whole Centre Training Day, no sessions for any children

Fri 17th December 2021 – **Last day of term for term time only children**

Fri 24th December 2021 – **Little Owls closes 4pm**

Tues 4th January 2022 – Centre opens

Have a great weekend

Karen

