

TOWNSEND BARN NURSERY

JANUARY 2024

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Newsletter

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Happy New Year!

All of the staff would like to wish you a Happy New Year and say a big thank you for their Christmas cards and gifts. We were very spoilt and still have lots of nibbles to share throughout January.

In the busy run up to Christmas we had two parties, Christmas lunch and a visit from Santa! We also had time to fit in our sponsored Elf Walk for Dorothy House. Thank you again for your support, we raised £507!

The Barn Owls Nativity Play was said to be the 'best ever' this year! We hope those of you that joined us enjoyed it as much as we did. We are so lucky to be part of a village community where we can host such an event.



We return to this new term with baby news! In October Miss Kelly and her daughter Lily welcomed twins Luna and Lyra. Then between Christmas and New Year Miss Vicky and her husband Wayne and daughter Mya, welcome baby Mable into the world. We send huge congratulations to everyone!

While Miss Vicky is on maternity leave Miss Helen has returned to the kitchen to cover, and Miss George has become our Deputy Manager. Our new menus will be published next week.

This term we have welcomed eight new children and their families to TBN. Children are already settling well into the new term and taking part of lots of exciting activities. In the run up to the Easter break we will be taking part in the Big Bird Watch and celebrating Chinese New Year and organising another event with The Children's Centre.

We endeavour to offer many unique learning experiences for the children and if you would like to see some of our achievements from 2023, please follow our Instagram page @Townsendbarnnursery

We are very proud of what we achieved from two Reading Awards, a Platinum Woodland Trust Award to an Outstanding Ofsted to name a few. We are particularly proud of our team of nursery practitioners who work tirelessly to enable these learning experiences to happen.

For those that need to apply for a school place for September 2024, please note your online application needs to be submitted by **15th January 2024** via the Wiltshire Council website www.wiltshire.gov.uk/schools-learning-admissions-online If you need any help or advice, please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Sarah.

CHANGES TO CHILDCARE FROM APRIL 2024

Firstly, if you haven't already, we encourage you set up a tax free childcare account. www.childcarechoices.gov.uk it will help enormously with your childcare invoices. This in turn will alert you if you are eligible for future funding.

As you will have heard in the news, the government have committed to offering eligible 2 year old children 15 hours of term time childcare from April 2024. This will be followed in September 2024 to eligible children over 9 months of age. In September 2025 they propose to offer all eligible children 30 hours of funded childcare the term after their 9 months of age.

As yet we have heard nothing from Wiltshire Council about the rates they will be offering you, but we do anticipate it to be a great deal more than they currently fund the 3 & 4 year olds. As soon as we have any information, we will share it with you. *How do I word it won't be free?*

We currently have a waiting list for September 2024 and January 2025, so if you know anyone who may need places please encourage them to contact us as soon as possible.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Start of Funding – Friday 5th January 2024
- School Applications – Monday 15th January 2024
- Chinese New Year – w/c 4th February 2024
- End of Funding – Friday 9th February 2024
- Start of Funding – Monday 19th February 2024
- Mighty Me! Children's centre fun – Tuesday 5th March 2024 3.30pm
- End of Funding – Thursday 28th March 2024
- Close for Easter – Friday 29th March 2024
- Open after Easter – Tuesday 2nd April 2024
- Start of Funding – Monday 15th April 2024



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