

Contact Information:

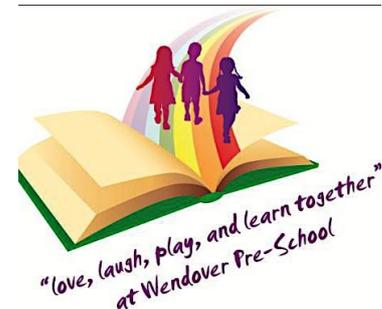
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Spring Term 2015

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all. We wish an especially warm welcome to Jack B, Rosie, Isabella B, Ava and Bobby. We hope you will all have many happy days at Wendover Preschool.

Important Reminders

- ❖ If your child has a temperature, is sick or has diarrhoea, please do not send them in until a clear 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. If in doubt keep them home. If a child is poorly enough to need paracetamol then usually the best place for them is snuggled up at home. Please be aware that we currently have two children on register with immunodeficiency conditions and, whilst it is clearly impossible to eradicate all common germs, we need to do our best to control the spread of infection.
- ❖ At the end of every session please collect your child's creations from their going home boxes.
- ❖ It is extremely important that you ensure all contact details are up to date. We must be able to contact you in case of an emergency. If you change your mobile phone number please let us know. Please also inform us of any new medical conditions/allergies.
- ❖ Please remember that at the end of a session Practitioners will ask for a password from anybody that they do not immediately recognise. The password is also required if there is no note in the diary (ie parental permission). The password system is in place to protect the children and as I am sure you will understand we can never be too careful.

- ❖ It is a safeguarding requirement that mobile phones and cameras are not used within the preschool (except those belonging to the preschool). I must insist PLEASE that you do not use your mobile phone when in the Preschool. If you must take a call please do so in the foyer area before entering the setting to drop off or collect your child.

Dates for your diary;

Inset Days to be advised



Spring Term:

5th January - 24th March

Half Term:

15th February - 19th February



Summer Term:

12th April - 15th July

Half Term :

30th May - 3rd June

Antiques Fairs (Thursdays):

17th March, 21st April, 19th May, 16th June

(Please use garden entrance and be especially careful in the car park)

Christmas Show & Party

We ended last term with our show & party. The party was full of fun & laughter and the bubble machine was a big hit! Thank you to Father Christmas for taking some time out of his busy schedule to come and visit us!

As ever, our Christmas show was the highlight of the pre-school year. Despite facing a huge audience, an experience that would daunt most adults, the children performed and sang beautifully! You should all be very proud of them - we were! If you have any photos you could share of the Christmas Show please print them out and we will display them in the setting.

Thank you to the Fundraising Committee for organising the raffle and so many other things! The Committee is currently made up of two wonderful Mums who work hard to support the Preschool. I know that they would love to see more people get involved. More about that later...

The ladies would also like to say a big thank you for our lovely Christmas gifts. In addition to the thoughtful personal gifts, we received enough 'team' gifts for a Christmas lucky dip; so all the ladies took home a treat for the Christmas break!



Garden refurbishment

We would like to use the money raised last year to spruce up the garden. We have a provisional plan but would love to hear your ideas too. Here is the plan so far....

- **Put down decking in the mud kitchen area**
- **Turf the grass area**
- **Replace the fencing between the playground & car park with an interactive fence similar to the ones pictured below**



We have around £500 (thanks to you!) but as we all know it won't go far! If you have any contacts or know someone that could lend a hand (or even manage the whole project!) any help would be gratefully received.

Challenge Cards

Challenge cards can be found on the table in the foyer. The challenge cards provide you with ideas that will encourage learning & development at home. They are fun, short activities that will fit into your daily routine.

- Take a card home once a week (or more if you would like to).
- Choose the card with your child to encourage participation and ownership.
- Follow the instructions together.
- Have fun
- Share photos, observations or children's work with your key person.
- Bring back the card for others to enjoy.

We would really like to see more observations from home. If you take a challenge card make a note of how the activity goes or take a photo and share it with your Key Person.



The Early Years Curriculum

The document "What to expect, when? A parents' guide" on The Foundation Years Website will help you as a parent/carer find out more about how your child is learning and developing during their first five years, in relation to the EYFS. Here is a link to this useful guide:

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/>

If you don't have access to a computer please let us know and we can print information for you.

Thinking Book

Remember to take a look at the Thinking Book each day to see what the children have been doing at Preschool. It is a wonderful way of getting ideas to continue children's learning and development at home. Next Steps and learning journeys are always available for you to look at too....just ask!



Voluntary Resources Donation

The 2,3 and 4-year-old free entitlement funding that we receive from the Local Authority just about covers our daily outgoings, leaving little for everyday resources. As such, we ask that you kindly support us by providing something from our wish list. You will find all sorts of things on the list including resources that can easily be collected at home (at no cost) or out on a walk, to BOGOF items that you might pick up at the supermarket. You will find our 'wish list' in the foyer. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

Learning & development opportunities

- Finding nametag on the tree - One of the first steps to reading is recognising that print has meaning. Nametags are just one of the ways that this is encouraged at Pre-school. Please encourage children to find their own nametags in the morning.
- Last week, to tie in with our colour theme, we trialled a new way of coming into Pre-school. The feedback from parents has been very positive so we would like to continue with this. Moving forward we will be calling children in by key group. Children should be encouraged to listen out for their group and to come in when they are called. This will promote listening & attention as well as nurturing a sense of community. The children also get into their key groups at other times during the morning (for instance - snack time).

Key groups

 Sharon's Green Grasshoppers	 Ruksana's Red Ladybirds	 Andrea's Yellow Ducklings	 Leighann's Stripey Zebras
Ben M	Dylan S	Belle	Elloise
Gabriele	Adam	Faye	Lyla
Evie	Afshana	Isla	Aoife
Henry	Ben C	Jack S	Isabella M
Isabella B	Cameron	Tobias	Mason
Ava	Jack B	Bobby	Rosie

- Self-registration - this is when children find their photos on the display board and move them across to indicate that they are at Pre-school. Self-registration encourages independence, self-awareness, and a sense of community. It is important that children are encouraged to complete this activity independently each morning.

Clothes & Shoes

Please ensure your child is dressed for a morning of messy play in old clothes that are comfortable and easily removed (particularly important when furthering independence.)



And please, please, please remember to name ALL of your children's belongings - Some children have the same coats and we need to be able to tell the difference!

We go outside everyday - whatever the weather. Please ensure that clothing and footwear are appropriate for all weather conditions.



Adverse Weather Conditions

In the rare event of extreme adverse weather we may have to close the preschool on the grounds of health and safety. A decision about whether to open or close will be made by 7.30am and the decision will be announced on our Facebook page by 7.45am. The FB page is also linked to our website: www.wendoverpreschool.org.uk so you will also find information here. You can also check the Bucks County Council website for pre-school closures on: closures.buckscc.gov.uk

Finally (phew!)

A heartfelt plea from your Pre-school ladies: Many children like to bring in toys (or other special things) from home. Whilst we recognise that often these items are valuable transitional objects (a term from developmental psychology specifically relating to those objects of affection, with which a child soothes itself) they frequently cause a problem. At this stage of development 'sharing' & 'turn taking' are often difficult concepts to grasp and at Pre-school we are learning to 'share' & 'take turns' with everything. Do you see where I'm going with this...?

It is so difficult to explain to children that they can't 'share' or 'take a turn' with a certain toy because it belongs to someone else. In addition to this, the ladies feel so awful if a special toy gets lost or broken and although we do try to keep an eye on everything, it is a hard task! Could we please ask that if children do bring in items from home that they are clearly labelled with a name? Also, that you explain that the item should be left in the basket (on kitchen side) or in a bag if it cannot be shared with friends in the playroom. Thank you for your cooperation.

Have a wonderful term,
Sharon & team

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Hello everyone

All of the fundraising activity for preschool was being co-ordinated by a couple of Mums whose children have left in the last couple of terms, so Nicole (Ben Channing's Mum) and I (Rosie Britton's Mum) have offered to try to keep it going. We'll happily accept any help if anyone would like to join us!!

We have come up with a plan of events for this term; please make a note of them in your diary and look out for details nearer the time.

COFFEE MORNING FOR PARENTS

We thought it would be a great opportunity for people to get to know each other without our pre-schoolers there (and a very good excuse to treat ourselves to a hot cup of coffee rather than head straight off to conquer our 'jobs' lists!)

We plan to meet on the **last Friday morning of each month in term time at Whitewaters** in Back Lane. We will put a reminder on the whiteboard.

FEBRUARY

VALENTINES DAY – SUNDAY 14th

We will be having a little sale of items after pick up on **Wednesday 10th/Thursday 11th/Friday 12th**.

Remember to bring some pennies - this will include cookies and cakes, so if you fancy baking a few to donate they would be much appreciated!!

In addition, on **Friday 12th** we have planned a pink and red dress up day for the children - £1 donation to preschool funds if you can spare it.

LEAP 'CRAZY' DAY

Monday 29th

To celebrate the extra day which only comes once every 4 years we will be encouraging all the children to have a crazy hair/dress up day – wear your wackiest clothes and show us your craziest hairstyle - £1 donation to preschool funds if you can spare it.

MARCH

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 3rd

To mark World Book Day, we'd like to invite all the children to be dressing as a character from their favourite book. We'd love to see lots of Gruffalos and Matildas! £1 donation to preschool if you can spare it.

We're also planning a book sale in the foyer at drop off and pick up, so bring your pennies – and any books which you've finished with and would like to rehome.

MOTHER'S DAY – SUNDAY 6th

For Mother's Day, we are planning a Mother's Day craft in the foyer after pick up for a couple of days the week before. We will put a sign up sheet outside preschool a couple of weeks beforehand for you to sign your children up; further details to follow.

EASTER – GOOD FRIDAY 25th- EASTER MONDAY 28th

We have organised a bake sale on **Wednesday 23rd and Thursday 24th** in the foyer outside preschool. Please bring some money to spend, and feel free to get creative in the kitchen if you'd like to bake some cakes or cookies to sell!

Phew! That's it for this term! We are also looking into a technology recycling/donation scheme for **April**, so hang onto any obsolete phones, tablets and cameras until then (details to follow). Hopefully all of this will raise some funds to help improve the facilities and buy new resources for our children.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it on Friday 29th January for a cuppa in whitewaters after drop off.

All the best, Angie and Nicole