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Spring Term 2017

Welcome to our spring term 2017. Christmas seems like a distant memory now, however we hope you had a relaxing & peaceful break. We wish an especially warm welcome to Ella, Rosie P & Michael who have joined us this term. We hope you will have many happy days here with us at Wendover Pre-School.

Planning

What a fabulous start to the term. We are already exploring many child initiated interests & fascinations. The weather has been an area of focus leading to investigations such as melting ice, building a snowman and testing slippery surfaces.

Imaginative play based on real life experiences has also been evident. Through this type of play children broaden personal, social and emotional skills, expand language and communication skills and evolve their knowledge of the world they live in. Traditionally, Early Years settings provide role-play based around a 'theme', often closely related to a planned topic, frequently resulting in the same role-play areas being wheeled out year after year.

At Wendover Pre-School we provide '**deconstructed play**' where the children drive the theme themselves. Deconstructed play literally means providing open-ended resources which children are then free to develop into whatever scenario they like, real or fantasy.

Our whole setting is 'deconstructed' to enable the children to follow their own interests. In education this is called **In The Moment Planning**. Planning in the moment is all about capturing the moment for children to progress, based on what the children are already deeply involved in. This relies on our skilled practitioners using quality interactions to draw out the children's knowledge and build on it right then & there (in the moment). Our practitioners are able to see a **teachable moment** from the child's perspective and know when to step in and when to stand back and observe. We can then add enhancements to help children take their learning & development forward. This might be in the form of conversation, open-ended questioning, resources or role modelling.

The following passage from the National Strategies document Learning, Playing and Interacting (2009) sums up the significance of in the moment planning for young children.

Young children are experiencing and learning in the here and now, not storing up their questions until tomorrow or next week. It is in that moment of curiosity, puzzlement, effort or interest (the teachable moment) that the skilful adult makes a difference. By using this cycle on a moment-by-moment basis, the adult will be always alert to individual children (observation), always thinking about what it tells us about the child's thinking (assessment), and always ready to respond by using appropriate strategies at the right moment to support children's well-being and learning (planning).

The team at Wendover Pre-School feel very passionately about 'in the moment planning' and we would love to tell you more about it. Please let us know if you would like more information.

Attendance

It is important for children to attend pre-school sessions unless unwell. Getting children into good routines and habits as young as possible supports their learning and development. However, if your child is unable to attend pre-school due to illness please call us on the first day of absence. We have a duty to inform Buckinghamshire County Council if a child in receipt of EY funding is consistently absent from sessions.

Please remember if your child is sick or has diarrhoea; please do not send them in until a clear 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.

Donating resources

Each term you will find a resources list in the foyer listing items such as glue sticks, play sand, coloured paper, boxes for modelling and natural resources, such as pebbles & pine cones. Not all items on the list will need to be purchased (some you could collect at home or on a trip to the woods).

We respectfully ask that you tick off & donate an item from the list. This helps us to provide a wide variety of opportunities for the children.

We would like to thank you for your continuing help & support in donating precious resources.

Clothing

Children should always come to pre-school dressed appropriately. Things to consider:

- ❖ Weather (during cold weather children must have warm clothing as we will still be outside).
- ❖ Messy play
- ❖ Independence when using the bathroom
- ❖ Safety of shoes for physical activity.

All items should be clearly labelled with your child's name (including lunch boxes!)

All children should bring a spare set of clothes in a named bag please

Passwords

Each family has to provide us with a password when joining Wendover Pre-School. This is a security measure to ensure the safety of your child. If someone other than the usual person is coming to collect your child you must give them your child's password. It is also extremely important that you inform us if anyone else is due to collect your child. If an unfamiliar (somebody that we do not see regularly) adult comes to collect your child we will request the password and if the adult cannot provide the password we will not allow them to take your child from pre-school. Please also note that you may be asked for your password if you telephone the pre-school to inform us of such changes. I know that this can be tiresome **but** it really is necessary in order to keep all children safe.

NOTICE BOARD

EYFS curriculum

There is a link on our website (www.wendoverpreschool.org.uk) to the Foundation Years Website. Here you will find information about the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

You may find the new publication [What to expect, When?](#) particularly useful when supporting your children at home and understanding their development.

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

Thinking Book

We LOVE our thinking book! It is a great way to see what we have been doing each week at pre-school. Please take some time to have a look at it (and write in your own comments). The children love to share the book with us and I am sure they would love to share it with you too!

Contacts/information

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.
Please also inform us of any new medical conditions/allergies.

In addition to this it is vital that you communicate to us any significant events in a child's life. The children often share their experiences with us and it is helpful if we know how best to support them. Please share with us any incidents of illness or bereavement in the family. Or even what has happened over the weekend – both good and bad!

Lunch boxes

Healthy eating is important to us all! A balanced diet is essential for the maintenance and protection of health, to ensure that full mental and physical potential is reached each day and to optimise growth and development. Developing a healthy diet and good eating habits early in life will lay the foundations for future health.

Packed lunches should contain:

- Starchy foods like bread, rice, potatoes or pasta.
- Protein foods like meat, fish, eggs or beans.
- A dairy item, like cheese or yogurt.
- Vegetables or salad and a portion of fruit.

They should not contain occasional treats such as:

- Confectionery, including cereal bars, sweets, chocolate bars or cakes/biscuits containing or covered in chocolate
- Crisps and savoury snacks that are high in fat and salt
- Sugary soft drinks

Waste food and empty packets will be sent home to allow parents to see what their child has eaten.

For more information click on the link below:

<http://www.healthylunch.org.uk/packedlunch/content/>

Antiques days

Every 3rd Thursday in the month the main hall is used for an antiques fair. On these days children should be brought in & collected from pre-school via the garden entrance. Please take care in the busy car park. Please note that cars may only be parked in designated parking bays and if there are no spaces available you will need to park nearby & walk to pre-school.

Dates for your diary;

Term dates:

Spring (1) 9th Jan-10th Feb
Spring (2) 20th Feb-31st March
Summer (1) 18th April-26th May
Summer (2) 5th June-19th July

(Inset days are to be confirmed)

Antiques fair:

Thursday 16th February (half term)
Thursday 16th March
Thursday 20th April
Thursday 18th May
Thursday 15th June

Communication, advice & support

Your child's Early Years Teacher (Sharon) or Key person are always happy to have a chat with you about your child's wellbeing, development and their next steps. Just let us know when is a good for you and we will do our very best to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Did you know that you could also make an appointment with Sharon for advice, help & support with any aspect of parenting? Sharon has 28 years of experience in early years childcare & education and as an Early Years specialist teacher and Lecturer in Early Years practice she has a wealth of knowledge about all aspects of caring for young children. Appointments can be made for any time during the morning (or afternoon session) but must usually be made in advance so as Sharon can organise time out of the session.

Planning ahead

Most children start off with us for 2 or 3 sessions a week and build up to 5+ sessions during their time at pre-school. Our 2017/18 waiting lists are filling up and new children will be joining pre-school as the academic year progresses. Consequently, sessions soon get full.

To ensure that you are able to increase your child's sessions as required over the coming term it is vital to think ahead. I understand that at this stage it is hard to predict what you might want to do in the future but it is important that you register your interest in extra sessions now. This way our administrator can work out how many places we have to offer to new children whilst keeping open places for those that will want them in the forthcoming terms. Please note that if you do not register your interest in advance we cannot guarantee the availability of extra sessions.

You can register your interest in extra sessions by sending an email to admin@wendoverpreschool.org.uk

Routines

Routines are important because they give children a sense of security and control over their environment. Children learn what to expect at various times in the day and as they begin to participate in these routines, they will experience a sense of control and satisfaction at being able to perform part of or all of the tasks associated with the routine.

Routines are also effective in managing negative behaviour particularly when it comes to dealing with transitions into new tasks. Routines allow children to emotionally prepare for changes that are to come.

Some of the important skills children learn through routines include: self-control, positive behaviour and social skills. Routines can even help to reduce power struggles between you & your child.

Our routines at pre-school are just as important. On arrival children should be encouraged to:

Independently find their name on the tree (enabling children to recognise their name helps in later schooling).

Listen out for their key group to be called (to encourage a sense of belonging & ownership)

Walk to the cloakroom to hang up their belongings (aiding the transition process)

During a session the children are given audio 'clues' as to what is coming next. For example:

- Sharon counts down from 5 to signify 'hello song' and 'wake & shake' time
- Sharon calls 'macaroni cheese' which prompts the response 'freeze' when the children need to stand still and be quiet
- Key groups are called in for snack time (and key group visual cards are 'paraded' around the setting by the children)
- Children are told 'it's time to put everything back where it lives' at tidy up time
- The phonics songs indicate group session at the end of the morning
- Our Tom Ted song means that 'Tom' has something to share with us
- The goodbye songs denotes the end of the session
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Following consistent routines day after day gives children the sense of security they need to make choices and take risks, which opens the door to exciting learning opportunities.

Fundraising News

I hope that you all had a good Christmas and New Year. We raised £226.95 at the Pre-School Christmas event, taking the total for the term to £288.90. All of this money is spent on resources to improve our children's time at Pre-School, so thank you very much for your support.

We have some exciting things planned for this term, including:

A themed dress up day and bake sale for Valentine's Day

A themed dress up day to coincide with World Book Day

An opportunity for the children to make Mother's Day gifts

and we are hoping to plan something extra special for Easter.... fingers crossed!!

As always, we would be grateful for any extra help fundraising; if you want to get involved, please chat to Alice (Alfie's Mum), Charlotte (Mollie's Mum), or me, Angie (Rosie B's Mum).

Watch this space for a fundraising newsletter with details and dates coming your way soon!!

We look forward to the exciting learning opportunities to come at Wendover Pre-School this term.

Sharon & team xx