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Autumn Term 2018

Welcome back everyone – we hope you had a fabulous summer! We wish an especially warm welcome to Harrison, Bobby, Evie, Marlon, Abigail, Billy, Bradley, Jude & Amiyaa who have joined us this term. We hope you will have many happy days here with us at Wendover Preschool. We also say hello a new member of staff. Tracey Buttle has joined us in the role of Deputy Leader. Tracey is a qualified and very experienced practitioner and we welcome her to the WPS family.

Signing in/out

Our Local Authority requires all children to be signed in at the start of a session and out again when they leave. The signing in/out sheet will be available in the foyer in the morning and then in the setting once the session begins. If you are unsure just ask.

Collecting children at end of session / Passwords

Can we please ask that children be collected promptly at the end of the morning to avoid disruption to lunch/afternoon sessions? Children should also be collected promptly at the end of the day in order to allow staff time to clean & tidy ready for the following day.

We understand that there may be times when a delay in collection is unavoidable. In these instances please telephone the setting mobile to let us know. Please also write in the diary or call us to let us know if somebody else will be collecting your child. If we are ever unsure or do not recognise the person collecting we will ask for your PASSWORD. We ask for your understanding if we have to ask a family member – if we do not see people regularly we may not recognise them. As a rule anyone that collects your child from Pre-school must be able to tell us your individual password.

Diary dates

Term Dates

AUTUMN 2018	6 TH SEPTEMBER 2018 – 18 TH DECEMBER 2018 (LUNCHTIME)
HALF TERM (closed)	22 ND OCTOBER 2018 – 26 TH OCTOBER 2018
SPRING 2019	7 TH JANUARY 2019 – 5 TH APRIL 2019 (LUNCHTIME)
HALF TERM (closed)	18 TH FEBRUARY 2019 – 22 ND FEBRUARY 2019
SUMMER 2019	22 ND APRIL 2019 – 19 TH JULY 2019 (LUNCHTIME)
HALF TERM (closed)	27 TH MAY 2019 – 31 ST MAY 2019
	INSET DAYS : TO BE CONFIRMED

Antiques Fair:

- [Thursday 20th September, 2018](#)
- [Thursday 18th October, 2018](#)
- [Thursday 15th November, 2018](#)
- [Thursday 20th December, 2018](#)

Antiques Fair

Every 3rd Thursday in the month the main hall is used for an antiques fair. On these days we use the garden entrance and the car park will be very busy. Please take extra care.



Lunch boxes

Children who attend lunch club should bring a healthy packed lunch from home. You can find out information & guidelines on healthy lunches at [Children's Food Trust](#) under the section 'Your Child's Food At Nursery'. There is lots of other useful information about healthy eating for children on this site.

Infection Control

It is inevitable that children will catch coughs/colds and other childhood illnesses at some point. At WPS we have a duty to our families (and staff) to ensure that we do all we can to control illness and infection. If your child is sick or has diarrhoea they MUST NOT come into preschool until they are clear of all symptoms for 48 hours. If your child is poorly enough to have medicine to control fever or pain (ie Calpol) the best place for them is snuggled up at home. We have children attending WPS who suffer from low immune function and in addition to this staff members have family who are suffering from long term illness.

On occasion there may be exceptions to these guidelines. You can always call us for advice. However, if in doubt – keep them home!

Celebrating Birthday's in Pre-school

Please let us know if you would like us to celebrate your child's birthday in Pre-school. We do not do this as a matter of routine. We have found that not all parents like us to and some children may feel uncomfortable with being the centre of attention. If you do give us permission we will celebrate by bringing out the golden birthday chair for your child at group time and they will get a special crown.

In the past it has been a tradition for the birthday child to bring in goodies to share with their friends at home time. This tradition is no longer practical now that children leave at various times throughout the day. As an alternative your child may like to bring in a fruit platter to share at snack time. This could be fruit kebabs, or a fruit salad. Another idea is to bring in a special book or story to share at group time.

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. 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).
Walk to the cloakroom to hang up their belongings (aiding the transition process)
Enter the playroom and move their photo across on the self register board.

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
- Children are told 'it's time to put everything back where it lives' at tidy up time
- Our Tom Ted song means that 'Tom' has something to share with us
- The goodbye songs denotes the end of the session

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.



NOTICE BOARD

Contact

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.

Car Parking

All pre-school parents should have a permit, which allows them to use the car park. These permits allow you to park in the Memorial Hall car park to **drop off and pick up** your child **from pre-school**. Permits must **only** be used at these times and on the days that your child attends. If you do not already have a permit please ask. Please make sure that it is displayed clearly in your car.

The memorial hall committee may challenge people who park in the car park, as unauthorised parking is an on-going problem.

Sun Protection

We may still have some sunny days left to enjoy. Please ensure that your child is wearing sun cream **BEFORE** coming into the pre-school. We will top up sun cream after lunch (if you have given us permission to do so). It is also sensible for children to wear light clothing that covers their vulnerable skin. Don't forget a (named) hat!

Mobile phones

It is a safeguarding requirement that mobile phones and cameras are not used within the pre-school except those belonging to the pre-school. I must insist PLEASE that you do not use your mobile phone when in the pre-school.

Particularly not for photos as we have some families who specifically ask for photos **not to be taken**. If you must take a call please do so in the foyer area before entering the setting to drop off or collect your child.

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.



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? Do you have a burning question about toilet training, eating, behaviour or sleep patterns? Sharon has 30 years of experience in early years childcare & education and as an Early Years specialist teacher 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.

Play-based learning & working in partnership

Play-based learning means children learning through their own play. This opens the way to a love of learning and prepares children for life. At Wendover Preschool we inspire children to embrace a love of learning through their play.

At WPS we follow the lead of children and adjust our environment accordingly. We build on what children know and can do. We do not have pre-planned themes. The plan for the next day doesn't get written until 'today' is over – it is directly led by what has happened 'today'. We know that children will not develop a love of learning unless they are absorbed & excited by their environment. We value interests & fascinations and we use them to introduce new concepts and extend individual development.

We believe that risks (dangers children can see and can assess and manage) are a necessary part of learning. We encourage children to make their own discoveries and solve problems. We empower them to manage conflicts, embrace challenges, extend ideas, persevere and learn from mistakes.

We aim for parents & carers to feel a strong sense of partnership based on mutual trust and confidence. We work with parents & carers to recognise the interests & fascinations that will inspire our planning. We want to know about your child's life outside of Pre-school. We encourage you to share information about your children, their play, learning and behaviour. This can be done in several ways:

- Informal conversations with practitioners or your Early Years Teacher
- Completing speech bubbles (available in foyer)
- Adding observations & photos from home to Learning Journeys
- Adding comments to the Thinking Book

By working together we can celebrate the diverse abilities, skills, interests and fascinations of each child. By working in partnership all children will be empowered to achieve and all children will be ready to embrace a life long love of learning.

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of each unique little person at Wendover Pre-school during the coming term.

We hope you have a wonderful term.

Sharon & team x