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Summer 2014

Welcome back for some summer fun!

We give an especially warm welcome to our new starters – Tilly, Belle, Faith, Alice, Dylan and Bella. We hope you will all have many happy days here at Wendover Pre-School. We also wish last terms graduates all the best at 'big school' – Holly, Amina, George and Sarah W!

Important Information

- **The Preschool Admin telephone number has changed.** The on-site mobile number remains the same and both numbers are at the top of this page. Please make sure you keep the on-site mobile number with you in case you need it unexpectedly when your child is at preschool.

Reminders

- If children bring in objects from home please will you ensure that they are named and that children are aware that others might like to play with them too. If it's too precious to share – then DON'T bring it in....
- It is extremely important that you ensure all contact details are up to date, especially if you change your phone numbers or other emergency contact numbers. **We must be able to contact you in case of an emergency.**
- At the end of every session take the children's belongings from the basket, their creations from the gallery and any letters/communication from the named pockets.
- Please ensure that you write in the diary or give us a call if anybody else will be collecting your child – and that they have your PASSWORD (whoever they are!)
- Remember sun cream and a hats when the warm weather arrives!
- If your child has a temperature, is sick or has diarrhoea, DO NOT send them in until a clear 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. Also if your child has a temperature the best place for them is at home.

Dates for your Diary

Term Dates:

Half term: May 26th - June 3rd
(Note Monday June 2nd is an INSET day)

Close for Summer: Fri 18th
July

Re-open for Autumn Term:
Monday 8th September



Wendover Celebrates:
Sunday 25th May @John Colet School - come and support our stall!

Sponsored Nature Walk:
Friday 27th June @ 11.00 -
Join us for a sponsored nature walk and picnic, from preschool to Wendover park. More details to follow soon.

Graduation - Fri 18th July

Antiques Fairs:
15th May; 19th June; 17th July (Please be especially careful in the carpark)

Sharon's News Page

Planning

Each half term we aim to provide opportunities for each individual child to learn and develop through the provision of activities and resources that will encourage and motivate them. The Thinking Book illustrates how we support children in reaching their 'next steps'. After feedback from parents we aim to put the Thinking Book in the foyer at times so that those who don't get a chance to look at it in the setting have more time to do so.

We welcome your thoughts/comments in the thinking book too (along with your initials). Parent partnership is one of the many things that Ofsted will be looking for during our (imminent) inspection and your contribution to the Thinking Book is a great way of showing how we work together.

The Wishing Board

You may have noticed our WISH board in the main room. This is for all children, parents/carers & staff to make suggestions for resources & activities. We have already fulfilled many of the wishes and although we need to keep things in context (If you wish for a Ferrari it's likely you won't get one!) we will aim to realise your dreams!

Policy of the month

The red folder in the foyer contains one of the many policies that are adhered to by the Preschool. Please take a look and familiarise yourself with them. There are comments sheets at the back of the folder. Your comments will influence the annual updating of policies so that you as parents/carers have a say in how the Preschool is managed and run on a daily basis.

Voluntary Donation

You may be wondering why we need to ask for voluntary contributions when the Government funds the majority of places at Preschool?

Unfortunately the money we receive for each child barely meets the cost of opening each morning. After paying rent for the hall and extra rent for our storage cupboards, insurance, essential resources, compulsory staff training and wages we just about break even. I think that it is important for you to know that whilst the Government demands high quality Practitioners to educate & care for your children they do not apportion enough money to Early Years to support this.

The wages that your ladies receive are not much more than minimum wage and without doubt do not reflect the dedication of the team. Until the Government recognise this and allocate more funding there is not much I can do about wages! However, I can ask that you help us in providing the very best environment to support and extend children's learning & development.

If you wish to make a **voluntary** donation, we suggest a donation of 50p per session. The **suggested** amounts for this term of 12 weeks are:

- 2 days per week - £12.00
- 3 days per week - £18.00
- 4 days per week - £24.00
- 5 days per week - £30.00

However, we are extremely grateful for **any** donations we receive.

Thank You!



Thank you so much to the wonderful Mum's who have offered to help out with the washing up this term and to those who have helped setting up our Vegetable Garden. If you cannot commit to helping out in the kitchen on a regular basis you might be able to help in other ways.

We need help occasionally with DIY and other things. If you or someone you know could help out sometimes with the many jobs that crop up please let us know. We will put your name on a list and let you know when we need you. The types of things that we need doing are:

- Putting together flat pack furniture
- Installing a water butt in the garden
- Washing the dressing up clothes
- Collecting natural resources (such as stones/fir cones/shells etc)
- Shopping for resources (i.e. keeping a look out in Charity Shops for certain things)

Messy Clothes

Please don't send children in their best outfits. We paint, glue, play with mud & sand and other sticky stuff. The children are positively encouraged to be independent and we don't want them to be inhibited by a 'don't get in a mess' outlook! Dress them for a day's work painting & decorating or gardening and all will be well! Alternatively, we now have pre-school logo badges and t-shirts with our logo printed on for sale (£4 for the badge alone, £6 for the t-shirt). Please speak to / email Michelle if you would like to buy one.

Facebook

Don't forget to look us up on Facebook. It's a great way of keeping in touch. We include information, links to interesting sites and funny quotes from the children. It's just a bit of fun but it's a nice way to feel included.

Message from the Fundraising Team

Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported the book sale and cake stall last term, and we hope your little ones enjoyed dressing up as their favourite story book characters too.

This term we have a **Sponsored Nature Walk and picnic** planned for **Friday June 27th at 11am**.

More details and a sponsorship form will be sent out nearer the time, but we would love for all parents to come along and join the children as they walk from preschool to Wendover park, spotting nature items along the way. Bring your lunch and we'll all have a picnic at the park afterwards (or at the Memorial Hall if it rains). Even if your child doesn't usually attend preschool on a Friday, we'd love you to bring them along to join in.



We are desperate for more volunteers to join the Fundraising Team and promise not to pinch too much of your time! If you can help in any way, please have a chat with Tasha (Oliver How's Mum) or Sharon.

*Thank you to you all for your continued support,
Take care of each other,*

Sharon