



WENDOVER PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER SPRING (1) 2020

Contact Information:

On site mobile: 07775 795900
(Admin Mobile): 07923 090 696
Email: admin@wendoverpreschool.org.uk
Facebook: Wendover Pre-School
Website: www.wendoverpreschool.org.uk

Spring term 2020

Welcome to spring term 2020 Newsletter. There is a lot of information to absorb - but it is all very important - so make yourself a cuppa or grab a glass of something chilled and settle in.

Christmas seems like a distant memory now, however we hope you had a relaxing & peaceful break. Thank you for joining us at the Christmas show. It was lovely to see so many family members in the audience. I am sure you will agree that the children were all AMAZING (as were the Angels - of course)! We had lots of fun after the show at our Christmas party. We sang & danced, chased bubbles & played parachute games. We even had a visit from Santa! He hopes your children enjoyed their books and photograph.

The ladies were thrilled with the lovely Christmas presents that they received. Thank you so much for thinking of us. We especially loved the Christmas cards from the children. There were so many lovely messages in them. It is wonderful to hear that you love WPS as much as we do!

New starters

I am sure you will all join me in wishing a warm welcome to Hamza, Noah, Finley, Mason, Fred, Edison and Rose who have joined us this term. We hope you will have many happy days here with us at Wendover Preschool.

Understanding the Early Years Foundation Stage

You may find the publication [What to expect when](#) particularly useful when supporting your children at home and understanding their development during this important 'Foundation Stage'.

[Hungry Little Minds](#) is a fabulous resource for finding new and exciting activities to share with your little ones. It also has some great recommendations for suitable Apps for children.

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 forget to sign in/out we will do it for you and circle it so as it is clear that a member of staff has completed the sheet on your behalf.

Collecting children at end of session / Passwords

Please collect children 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 would rather avoid the introduction of late collection charges but may have to consider this in the future.

We understand that there may be times when a delay in collection is unavoidable. In these instances please telephone to let us know (On site mobile: 07775 795900). Please also write in the diary or call us to let us know if somebody else will be collecting your child. If somebody else will be collecting regularly please email us with the details. If we are ever unsure or do not recognise a 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**.

We have had circumstances in the past where a parent needs to change a password for reasons of safeguarding. If you need to change your password at any time please let us know in writing.

Term Dates 2020

SPRING 2020

7TH JANUARY 2020 – 3RD APRIL 2020 (FINISH @ NOON)

HALF TERM (closed) 17TH FEBRUARY 2020 – 21ST FEBRUARY 2020

SUMMER 2020

20TH APRIL 2020 – 17TH JULY 2020 (FINISH @ NOON)

HALF TERM (closed) 25TH MAY 2020 – 29TH MAY 2020

INSET DAYS

1ST JUNE 2020

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 to enter and exit Preschool and the car park will be very busy. Please take extra care. This years dates for Antiques are:

Thursday 16th January, 2020

Thursday 20th February, 2020

Thursday 19th March, 2020

Thursday 16th April, 2020

Thursday 21st May, 2020

Thursday 18th June, 2020

Fundraising

WPS is such a lovely pre-school and we thank you for making it so special. Our wonderful fundraising team (all 2 of them) work so hard to organise events such as the Christmas raffle and you are all so generous in your patronage. Due to your participation in such events we will be able to buy new resources to support learning and development and update the garden area. Should you have any ideas for future fundraising events we would love to hear from you. Watch out for Easter fundraising events & our annual sponsored walk in the summer term.

Fees

May we respectfully ask that all fees be paid in a timely manner? Despite the fact that the WPS ladies deserve to be paid a wage that truly reflects their passion, commitment & dedication – they get National Living Wage. This is because our Government funding does not actually cover the cost of providing a place for each child. Our rent has increased, as has our annual insurance. We have to pay an annual fee to Ofsted and have numerous other expenses that enable us to provide a safe, stimulating environment for your children. We do not make any profit – in fact we often make a loss. When fees are paid late it has an impact on the sustainability of Wendover Preschool. There is an opportunity to set up a payment plan if you find it difficult to budget for a half termly payment. Please have a chat with Tracey (admin) if you have any worries or questions.

Registers

Registers are now pretty much full until September. We will soon be offering places to children on our waiting list for September 2020 and we would like to give **you** priority to change/add days before we do this. If you would like to change or add sessions in September 2020 please let Tracey (admin) know as soon as possible.

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.

End of Session Afternoon Time (2.30pm-3pm)

There is a limited number of places during this end of session time which provides a relaxed environment in which children further develop social skills.

During this time we wind down. We may share a story, have quiet play, such as jigsaw puzzles or carpet time, or even choose a DVD to watch with friends. We may have meditation or have a relaxed and quiet period just listening to music. Completely child led with a calm quiet atmosphere. Your children should be ready for home calm and relaxed waiting to tell you all about their day.

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!

Reporting absences

Absences must be reported everyday (unless the absence is pre-arranged) and we are required to record them in the register. Please telephone or text the on site mobile: 07775 795900 to let us know if your child will not be attending their session. Bucks County Council undertakes register audits for funded children and any unauthorised absences may be questioned and funding may have to be returned. In the event of funding being reclaimed by BCC parents will be required to pay costs/fees.

Snow Days

We know it can be frustrating when a bit of snow brings the country to a stand still but...any decision to close WPS due to weather will be taken with the safety of children, staff & parents in mind. We will notify you of any closures on our FB page & on BCC school closures page. If a session is already in progress and we make the decision to close early you will be notified by telephone. So please be prepared to collect early if the snowfall is heavy. As a general rule - if the school campus closes we will close too.

Celebrating Birthdays in Pre-school

Sometimes children like to bring in snacks to share with friends to celebrate their Birthday. As a setting that promotes healthy eating we suggest bringing in a fruit platter or another healthy snack. Some ideas are fruit kebabs, fruit salad, flavoured rice cakes or vegetables & houmous. If children don't want to bring in snack they might like to bring in a special book to share at group time.

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). If you must take a call please do so in the foyer area before entering the setting to drop off or collect your child.

I must insist, PLEASE, that you do not use your mobile phone once you have entered the Preschool. In addition to the safeguarding issue we would hope that when dropping off or collecting your sole focus would be your child.

During special events – such as a show or graduation - you will be informed if taking videos/photos is permitted on that occasion.

Car Parking

All pre-school parents/carers 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 preschool**. 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 ongoing problem.

Clothing

Children should always come to Preschool dressed appropriately. All items should be clearly labelled with your child's name (including lunch boxes). 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 activities

Pre-writing skills

We often hear parents say that they would like to see their child learn to 'write' at Preschool. At WPS we concentrate on pre-writing activities to enable children to build all the skills necessary to become a competent writer. Pre-writing skills contribute to a child's ability to hold and use a pencil, and the ability to draw, write, copy, and colour. A major component of pre-writing skills are the pre-writing shapes. These are the pencil strokes that most letters, numbers and early drawings are comprised of. They are typically mastered in sequential order.

PRE-WRITING SHAPES

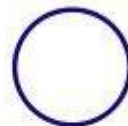
Children should be able to form these 9 pre-writing strokes before asking them to write.



2 years



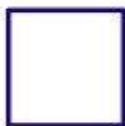
2½ years



3 years



3½-4 years



4 years



4½ years



4½ years



4 years
11 months



5 years
3 months

Children who can adequately draw the oblique cross can copy a significantly higher number of letters than little ones who cannot.

Please remember that all developmental ages are just a guide. Every child is unique.

Other pre-writing skills:

- **Hand and finger strength:** An ability to exert force against resistance using the hands and fingers that allows the necessary muscle power for controlled movement of the pencil.
- **Crossing the mid-line:** The ability to cross the imaginary line running from a person's nose to pelvis that divides the body into left and right sides.
- **Pencil grasp:** The efficiency of how the pencil is held, allowing age appropriate pencil movement generation.
- **Hand eye coordination:** The ability to process information received from the eyes to control, guide and direct the hands in the performance of a task such as handwriting.
- **Bilateral integration:** Using two hands together with one hand leading (e.g. holding and moving the pencil with the dominant hand while the other hand helps by holding the writing paper).
- **Upper body strength:** The strength and stability provided by the shoulder to allow controlled hand movement for good pencil control.
- **Object manipulation:** The ability to skilfully manipulate tools (including holding and moving pencils and scissors) and controlled use of everyday tools (such as a toothbrush, hairbrush, cutlery).
- **Visual perception:** The brain's ability to interpret and make sense of visual images seen by the eyes, such as letters and numbers.
- **Hand dominance:** The consistent use of one (usually the same) hand for task performance, which allows refined skills to develop.
- **Hand division:** Using just the thumb, index and middle finger for manipulation, leaving the fourth and little finger tucked into the palm stabilizing the other fingers but not participating.

If these skills are underdeveloped it can lead to future frustration and resistance due to a child not being able to produce legible writing or to 'keep up' in school due to muscle fatigue. This can then result in poor self-esteem and academic performance.

Another issue that can knock confidence when transitioning to school is correct letter formation – another area that we hear parents say they would like their child to work on. If on transition children are already interested in writing they will be expected to form letters correctly. If children have not mastered the pre-writing shapes & correct letter formation they may associate the wrong movement with certain letters (common errors are forming 'o' using a clockwise movement or 'adding' on a tail to an 'a'). Consequently, when they start at 'big' school, they have to retrain their brains and change their muscle memories – a difficult task particularly in a new environment. So if your child is showing an interest in writing we can work together to ensure that they are offered opportunities to master the skills necessary to become confident capable future writers. We have information sheets/resources at WPS that can help – please come and ask.

I can't stress how important it is to get these foundations in place before we start to think about writing.

Photocopies

Please don't forget to have a look at the parent's notice boards in the cloakroom and look out for whiteboard information reminders & notices. If you would like a photocopy of any of the information sheets on the notice boards please do let us know.

IT Appeal

We now have a Wi-Fi connection at the Memorial Hall. We have a couple of amazon tablets for our music and looking up information with the children. If you have any old ipads/kindles etc. that are in good working order please think of us if you are having a clear out. Also, we need to get a new reliable laptop for administration purposes in the very near future. If anybody has any contacts that may be of help please let us know. It may be that you know of a business who are due to update their IT equipment or of someone that can get us a good deal? We would greatly appreciate your assistance.

Phew – I think that is about it! Well done for sticking with me!
Just one last thing – these are the most important skills that your child will acquire at WPS:

When we teach preschoolers, we teach the whole child.

We enable them to live, to laugh, to love, and to grow.

We encourage children to be confident so that they can speak up when they need to say something.

We teach children to share a toy so they can practice generosity.

We inspire children to care so that they can offer a hug to a hurting friend.

We offer children choices to show them that what they are interested in really matters to us.

We present children with open-ended activities so that they can create, imagine, explore, and discover.

We give children time when they disagree with one another so that they have a chance to work it out.

We provide children with unhurried moments so that they develop persistence in whatever they are doing.

We permit children to be angry, frustrated, or upset because it happens to even the best of us.

We listen to children, on their level, because what they say is important, relevant and sometimes really really funny!

We explain to children that we all make mistakes & mistakes are good because that is how we learn & grow.

We value children's individuality, originality, independence & creativity – even if it means we get a bit messy!

We empower children to hope because hope is that voice inside that says, "I'm sure I can do this."

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of each unique little person at Wendover Preschool during the coming months.

We hope you have a wonderful term.

Sharon & team

Sharon Tapping

Early Years Teacher

Wendover Preschool

Love, laugh, play & learn together