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Spring 2014

Happy New Year, we hope you had a fantastic Christmas!

We give an especially warm welcome to our new starters – Edward, Freddie and Malachy. We hope you will all have many happy days here at Wendover Pre-School.

Reminders

- In the cold weather, remember that we still play outside! Please bring coats, hats, scarves and gloves on cold days. You may also wish to provide indoor and outdoor shoes. **Please make sure everything is labelled!** 
- In the rare event of extreme adverse weather, we 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. You can also check Bucks County Council's website for pre-school closures on: www.buckscc.gov.uk
- 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.**
- Letters and notices are sent home via the children's named pockets in the corridor. Please remember to check the pockets regularly so you don't miss out on anything! Each child has a named peg on their pocket and the pockets are arranged in alphabetical order by first name.
 - 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!



Dates for your Diary

Term Dates:

Half term: Feb 17th - Feb 21st

Close for Easter: Fri 4th April

Re-open for Summer Term: 23rd April



Social and Committee Meetings:

Parents & Carer's Social Night: Weds 5th Feb; from 8pm at Twist

Fundraising Team Meeting: Thurs 23rd Jan, 11.30am in the foyer

World Book Day - 6th March - Dress up as your favourite book character

Graduation - Fri 4th April

Antiques Fairs:
16th Jan; 20th March; 17th April

Thank you!

The Christmas party and nativity were such a wonderful end to the term. I am so very proud of all the children and ladies for their hard work. **If you have any photos that you could share on our Facebook page it would be wonderful to see them.**



Thank you for our wonderful Christmas presents. As always we feel very privileged and spoilt to receive your gifts and would like you to know how much we appreciate your kindness.

Introducing...

The Parents Questionnaire

At Wendover Preschool it is our aim to provide a very open and supportive setting for our children and also for their families. We want to continually improve our ways of working and would therefore like to ask you for some feedback.

You will find a short questionnaire in the letter pockets in the next few days. Please fill it in openly and honestly as it helps us to reflect and improve. I would really like to receive a questionnaire back from everybody so please take the time to fill it in and get it back to me by posting it into Sarah's admin postbox. If you would like to discuss any of the questions please come and see me.

This type of evaluation is seen as an essential practice within Early Years care and education, and it is hugely valuable for us to be able to hear your views in this way.

The Wishing Board

We have a wishing board in Pre-school that we add post-it notes onto as and when we think of new resources/toys that we believe would enhance the setting. **If your child ever comes home and wishes that we had something to play with that we don't yet have, please come and participate by adding to the wishing board.**

The Behaviour Policy

We are often asked how we deal with unwanted behaviour and conflict between children within the preschool. We believe that children and adults flourish best when they know how they are expected to behave and that they should be free to play and learn without fear of being hurt or unfairly restricted by anyone else.

It is fundamental to our ethos at WPS that ALL parents/carers/staff/children/volunteers and visitors are committed to promoting and modeling positive behaviour. We aim to provide an environment in which there is acceptable behaviour and where children learn to respect themselves, other people and their environment.

One of the strategies that we use during sessions is the High Scope six-step conflict resolution process. This supports children to settle disputes and conflicts and is summarised on the next page.

If you would like to see more details on this, please see our Behaviour Policy. All our policies are available to parents in the Policy Folder, in the preschool foyer.

Introducing...

...The High Scope Six Step Conflict Resolution Process

One strategy for resolving conflict is the High Scope process. It supports children in settling disputes and conflicts as follows:

We use this approach within the preschool alongside our Golden Rules...

1. Approach calmly, stopping any hurtful actions. Place yourself between the children, on their level; use a calm voice and gentle touch; remain neutral rather than take sides.
2. Acknowledge children's feelings. Say something simple such as "You look really upset;" let children know you need to hold any object in question.
3. Gather information. Ask "What's the problem?" Do not ask "why" questions as young children focus on that what the problem is rather than understanding the reasons behind it.
4. Restate the problem: "So the problem is..." Use and extend the children's vocabulary, substituting neutral words for hurtful or judgmental ones (such as "stupid") if needed.
5. Ask for solutions and choose one together. Ask "What can we do to solve this problem?" Encourage children to think of a solution but offer options if the children are unable to at first.
6. Be prepared to give follow-up support. Acknowledge children's accomplishments, e.g., "You solved the problem!" Stay nearby in case anyone is not happy with the solution and the process needs repeating.

...you may find these steps useful at home too!

And lastly, can you help inspire the children for a part of a morning?

It would be so great if a handful of adults with connections to the preschool – parents, relatives, friends, carers – could come and visit us from time to time to share something interesting with the children. If you or someone you know has an interesting hobby, job or skill you think the children would like to see or hear about, then please let us know! It could be anything from baking, singing or story telling, to playing a musical instrument, being a postman, an ambulance driver or having visited an interesting country!

I would love to hear from you if you can pop in for part of a session.



THERE ARE TWO
GIFTS WE SHOULD
GIVE OUR CHILDREN;
ONE IS ROOTS, AND
THE OTHER IS WINGS.

A closing thought for this
term!

*Take care of each other,
Sharon*

Message from the Fundraising Team

A huge thank you goes to everybody who helped contribute to the Christmas Raffle fundraising, whether buying and selling tickets, providing prizes or helping to run the raffle and Christmas show event. We raised a staggering £548 for the preschool, and additionally were given a tablet for the children to use. This is a fantastic outcome and makes a real difference for our children and the preschool's resources.

We hope you also enjoyed the soft play family fun day at RAF Halton's Trinity Centre on January 18th. We are very grateful to RAF Halton for the use of the facility and hope that the children enjoyed themselves.



We have more fundraising events planned this term which we hope you and your children will enjoy being involved in...

- 1) **March 6th – World Book Day** – Come to preschool dressed up as your favourite story book character. Suggested £1 donation per child
- 2) **Thursday 3rd April – Cake stall** in the foyer at 12.00

We are always glad to have more volunteers on the Fundraising Team. If you can help in any way, please have a chat with Jennie (Charlie's Mum) or Tasha (Oliver How's Mum)

Voluntary Resources Donation

If you wish to make a voluntary donation towards resources, we suggest a donation of 45p per session. Any donations received will be wholly used for resources within the preschool. The suggested amounts for this term of 12 weeks are:

- 1 day per week – £5.40
- 2 days per week - £10.80
- 3 days per week - £16.20
- 4 days per week - £21.60
- 5 days per week - £27.00

We are extremely grateful for the donations we receive. A new donations bucket will be put out for use for all the voluntary donations - we hope that you will be able to support us this term with your kind donations.