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Spring Term 2015

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all. We wish an especially warm welcome to Evie and her family. Also to Aarush, Elloise, Bella and their families who will be joining us after the Half Term break. We hope you will all have many happy days at Wendover Pre-school.

OFSTED

We ended 2014 with a fabulous Ofsted report. The full report can be read via our website www.wendoverpreschool.org.uk

In the mean time here are some nice comments, which demonstrate why we are **outstanding** at meeting the needs of the children in our setting

Staff make highly perceptive observations of children's achievements and meticulously record and monitor children's progress.

Staff are highly skilled at supporting and extending children's learning experiences.

Staff interactions with the children are exemplary and help to make an exceptional child-led environment.

Staff are highly skilled at supporting and extending children's learning experiences.

Staff interactions with the children are exceptional & partnerships with parents are exemplary.

Strong leadership and a well-established team lead to an organised and efficient service.

Very well done to us all!!



Adverse Weather Conditions

In the rare event of extreme adverse weather we may 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 the Bucks County Council website for pre-school closures on: [closures.buckscc.gov.uk](https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/closures)

Other Reminders

- ❖ **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.**

- ❖ **If your child has a temperature, is sick or has diarrhoea, please do not send them in until a clear 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. If in doubt keep them home. If a child is poorly enough to have paracetamol then usually the best place for them is snuggled up at home.**

- ❖ **At the end of every session please collect your child's creations from the gallery and any letters from the named pockets.**

- ❖ **It is a safeguarding requirement that mobile phones and cameras are not used within the preschool except those belonging to the preschool. I must insist PLEASE that you do not use your mobile phone when in the Preschool. If you must take a call please do so in the foyer area before entering the setting to drop off or collect your child.**

- ❖ **Please be prompt at the beginning of the morning. The session begins at 9am and a member of staff waits at the door in order to welcome families and safeguard the children. This member of staff is out of ratio until all parents have left and we can lock the door. There have been times recently when this staff member is not back in the Playroom until 9.30am. Please also keep in mind that we are encouraging school readiness and schools will not tolerate recurrent tardiness.**

Dates for your diary:
To print out and keep on the fridge!



Spring Term
6th January 2015 - 27th March 2015

Half Term
13th February - 23rd February 2015



Summer Term
14th April 2015 - 18th July 2015
(13th April Inset Day)

Half Term 22nd May - 1st June 2015

Antiques Fairs (Thursdays):
Jan 15th, Feb 19th (half term),
March 19th, April 16th, May 21st
(Please use garden entrance and be especially
careful in the car park)

Spring Term Graduation - TBA

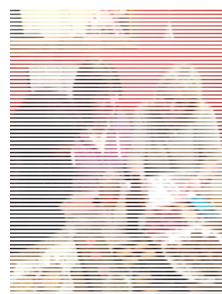
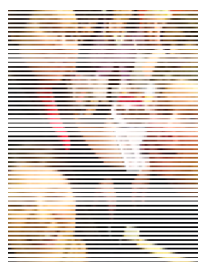
Christmas Show & Party

We ended last term with our show & party. The party was full of fun & laughter and the snow was a big hit! Thank you to Father Christmas for taking some time out of his busy schedule to come and visit us!



As ever, our Christmas show was the highlight of the pre-school year. Despite facing a huge audience, an experience that would daunt most adults, the children performed and sang beautifully! You should all be very proud of them - we were! Thank you to the Committee for helping with the logistics! If you have any photos you could share of the Christmas Show please print them out and we will display them in the setting.

The team would also like to say a big thank you for our lovely Christmas gifts. We had enough gifts for a little Christmas lucky dip for the ladies so everybody took home a treat for the Christmas break. We also had a fun staff get-together. You will be pleased to know that (ever the teacher) I put together some quizzes to test the ladies knowledge. Here are a few photos of our evening:



Challenge Cards

The blue box of challenge cards can be found on the table in the foyer. The challenge cards provide you with ideas that will encourage learning & development at home. They are fun, short activities that can fit into your day.

- Take a card home once a week (or more if you would like to).
- Choose the card with your child to encourage participation and ownership.
- Follow the instructions together.
- Have fun
- Share photos, observations or children's work with your key person.
- Bring back the card for others to enjoy.

We would really like to see more observations from home. If you take a challenge card make a note of how the activity goes or take a photo and share it with your Key Person.

Could you add to our challenge cards?

Maybe you have some games/activities that you could share with other parents/carers? Do your children have some ideas?

Just print them out and bring them in - we will laminate them and add them to the challenge box. You could include your family name too so we know who had the brilliant idea!

Fly on the wall

At the end of each morning we have a volunteer who comes in to help with washing up/tidying the kitchen. Alfie's Mummy has been helping us out at the end of every session since last September. I am sure she will tell you how nice it is to secretly listen in to the group session at the end of the morning whilst she is busy in the kitchen. If you would like to volunteer (and give Alfie's Mummy a day off) please let us know. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alfie's Mummy for all the help she gives us!



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

In summary, there are seven areas of learning and development that shape the curriculum. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for awakening children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

These three areas, the prime areas, are:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

We also support children in four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Thinking Book

Remember to take a look at the Thinking Book each day to see what the children have been doing at Pre-school. 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!



Voluntary Resources Donation

If you wish to support Pre-school by make a voluntary donation towards resources may we suggest a donation of 45p per session? Any donations received will be wholly used for resources within the pre-school. The suggested amounts for this term 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. Sadly last term we only received 5 but we hope that you will all be able to support us this term with your kind contributions.

Thank you in advance.

Polite Notice

Can we please ask that children are supervised at all times before and after a Pre-school session? We pay a daily rate to hire our Pre-school room and we are financially responsible for any damage to the property of the Memorial Hall. We are also responsible for cleaning before we leave. This includes cleaning the foyer area of rubbish/food crumbs etc. Children should not be climbing on the furniture in the foyer area and for reasons of safety should not be running around the car park as other hall users will be driving in and out.

Thank You!
😊

Clothes & Shoes

Please ensure your child is dressed for a morning of messy play in old clothes that are comfortable and easily removed.



And please, please, please remember to name ALL of your children's belongings - Some children have the same coats and we need to be able to tell the difference!

We go outside everyday - whatever the weather. We are also hoping to go out of the setting for more short walks and adventures!! Please ensure that clothing and footwear are appropriate for all weather conditions.

You have been warned!



Advertising & marketing drive

Since I joined the Pre-school 5 years ago there have been many changes and improvements. Reflection is part of our everyday practice and we work hard to keep up with training and current research in order to provide the best environment for your children.

We have some excellent advantages at Wendover Pre-school and I think we should shout about them! I have finished my Early Years Degree and I am now qualified as an Early Years Specialist Teacher. In addition I am an associate lecturer at Bucks New University sharing good practice on the Foundation Degree in Early Years Care & Education. We have recently had a fabulous OFSTED report in which we were graded OUTSTANDING in meeting the needs of all children that attend our setting.

As a charity we are not aiming to make a profit but it is a competitive market and we must keep up with other Childcare services in our area. If anybody has a talent in advertising & marketing and would be willing to support our campaign please come and have a chat.

A few words from the Fundraising Committee.

What a great fundraising term we had!!

The Halloween spooky cake sale & lucky dip raised £51.80 & Halloween dressing up donations raised £12.00.

The lovely school photos raised £185.00 for pre-school.

Sale of tea towels featuring the lovely self-portraits by the children has so far made just over £80.00. The initial order of 50 tea towels sold quickly so a second 2nd order was made of which we have a few left if anyone is interested at £4 each (Easter/Mother's Day present perhaps?).

We raised just over £300 at the Christmas party (including raffle tickets, refreshments & stalls). Thank you again to all those who generously donated prizes for the raffle:

Wendover Pre-School Raffle Prizes 2014:

Six fitness classes worth £50 from Cat Booker Fitness

One day Mini Reds Tennis Course from Halton Tennis School

Piano Lessons from Kate Wynne-Eaton

Two Christmas cushions from Nicole (Nathan's Mom)

One month free Jazzercise

121 sewing session with Rae Merchant of Fabric HQ

Christmas Bunting from Sian Evans

Voucher for Nail Paint from Pretty Nails

Two Cod and Chips takeaway from McCoys

Two free kids swimming lessons with Turtle Tots

Coffee and chocolates for two at Rumseys Chocolates

£30 meal voucher from Spice Garden Restaurant

Bottle of Prosecco and kids toy from Wendover Heights Vet Centre

£10 voucher from Kings Farm Shop

Keepsake box from Agora

Biscuits and wine from Penny Miles

Chocolate biscuits from pre-school neighbour

Family planner from Phoenix cards

Hair products from Gabrielle's family

We plan to hold another second hand book sale in March to coincide with world book day if anyone has any unwanted books you would be happy to donate please see Zoe at drop off. Other fundraising events this term will be a valentine chocolate/cookie sale and goodies /dressing up for Easter.

Many thanks to everyone for your continued support.

I recently read this poem in an Early Years publication and thought that it beautifully illustrates the importance of parent partnership.

UNITY

I dreamed I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools used,
Were books and music and art.
One, a parent with guiding hands,
A gentle and loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled,
With a touch both deft and skilled.
The parent laboured side by side,
And all the values filled.
And when at last their task was done,
They looked at what they'd wrought.
The beautiful shape of the precious child,
Could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed it would have failed,
If one had worked alone.
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, home.

A very big **Thank you to you all for your continued support.**

Have a wonderful term,
Sharon & team

