



# Woodham Mortimer Pre-School

Newsletter April 2012

Pre-School Mobile Number: 07742 228077

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back, we hope you have had a relaxing Easter break!

This half term we welcome Evie Poston, Christopher Wade, Tilly Clark-Casse, Grace Day, Thomas Halleron, Fred Hayes and Isaac Kitchen. We wish the children and their family's happy times with us.

We also welcome Nikki Long who joins our staff team as relief staff, also working for the next term on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning. Nikki has a level two childcare qualification and has previously worked in a local nursery.

Following the success of Grandparent's Week last term we have introduced a Dad's Week from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May. We know that it is often harder for Dad's to come to Pre-school during the working week but we would love to be joined by as many as possible, the children will love it! Dads are welcome to talk to the children about an interest that they have or just to come in to play or watch their children as they take part in the session. If your child has a Dad that would like to come in please let Janice or Jenny G know.

A big thank you to Lucy, baby Ozzy, Sally and baby Seeley for visiting us last half term. The children in the afternoon sessions really enjoyed the visits and did a fantastic job trying out their newly learned baby caring skills on our dolls, it was great in particular to see two of the boys changing dolls nappies! A number of people (including some of our visitors during Grandparents Week) have also asked about coming in to help/visit during the session. We are always happy to have visitors at Pre-school, this really helps the children gain confidence in talking to adults and learning more about them, it also gives the visitors a great opportunity to see the children in action; this may be your last chance if your child is due to start school in September. If you or a member of your family would like to visit/ help out please let Janice or Jenny G know.

With the Olympics being held in this country, we thought it would be great for Pre-school to get involved in the excitement. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July we have been invited to join the Maldon Pre-Schools in a Pre-school's Mini Olympics. This will consist of a team of up to 25 of our children taking part in races at the Plume School. The Pre-school will be closed for the day to enable our team, together with their parents or carers, and our children not competing with their families to join in the event, the staff team will also be going to help out with the organisation and to support our children. The week leading up to the Mini Olympics will also see the Mini Olympic torch coming to Pre-school as it travels to all of the Pre-schools involved. Please put this date in our diary more information will be available at a later date.

## Term Dates

*Summer Term 2012: 23rd April - 19th July*

The pre-school will be **closed** on the following days:

*Inset training: Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June*

*Summer Half Term: 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June*

*Cleaning days: Friday 20th July*

*Mini Olympics: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July*

## Important Dates

Dads' Week: 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May

Parents Evening: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 6.30 to 8.30

Pre-School Summer Fete Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Sports Day: To be confirmed

Leaver's Party: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July 11.45 to 2.45, including a leavers presentation at 2.15, all children leaving Pre-School in July 2012 are welcome, together with all children usually attending the Thursday pm session

## Topics for this half term

| Week       | Topic                               | Letter of the Week |
|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 23rd April | Vaisakhi (14th April Sikh festival) | A                  |
| 30th April | Spring                              | B                  |
| May 7th    | Spring                              | C                  |
| May 14th   | Jubilee Celebrations                | D                  |
| May 21st   | Jubilee Celebrations                | E                  |
| May 28th   | Jubilee Celebrations                | F                  |

## Training

During our inset training day last half term we received training from our Area Senco. We learnt more about Speech and Language development in young children, what to expect and how to support children with delay. We also talked about using visual prompts to show children the routine at Pre-school and to clarify what we are expecting the children to be doing. Janice led some analysis on team structures and we all analysed what sort of team player we are, to enable us to use individual's strengths and understand our own weakness. Caroline attended a Best Practice for Two Year Olds Course, Caroline is our Two Year Old's Co-ordinator. This course highlighted the importance of giving children opportunities to crawl around between activities and spend time on their tummies. This helps children to tone up muscles in their bodies to compensate for when they may have not had sufficient time to do this as babies, due to increased time in car seats and baby carriers. Tummy time helps to develop core muscles and the development of bladder control. Janice attended a course on outdoor play which discussed and the importance of children spending extended periods of time outdoors, to experience the natural environment and changes in weather and seasons.

## Learning Journey Books

We hope you have enjoyed looking through your child's Learning Journey Book; these books will again be displayed on the brown table just inside the entrance to the main hall on the right hand side, please feel free to look through them. They are updated at the end of each term, after which new content will be included in them. If you wish to take them home to look through please talk to your key person first, these books are very precious to your key person whilst your child is at Pre-school, your key person dedicates many hours of work (much of which is unpaid) to completing them, they would not be able to be replaced if they are spoilt or lost. The order of display is in key person order:

23rd April Susan, 30th April Julia, 7th May Caroline, 14th May Alison and Frances, 21st May Jenny, 28th May Janice

## Outdoor Play

We strongly believe in the benefits of children playing outside every day, this happens at Pre-school whatever the weather; this is also an expectation of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. As the seasons start to change please ensure that your child has sun screen applied and a sun hat on sunny days, a waterproof coat and wellies on wet days.

## Show and Share

Polite request - We have had a number of instances where children have kept items from home with them and subsequently lost them during the session, resulting in staff needing to search through items already packed away. This also causes an issue as all activities are risk assessed before the children enter pre-school, to ensure that they are age appropriate and safe for the children to use, if children are taking their own toys into Pre-school with them they have not been risk assessed and could present a danger to the children, this is particularly important as we have many two years olds at Pre-school.

## Illness

Please can you keep your child at home if they are generally unwell to prevent staff and other children becoming ill (cold, cough, sore throat, high temperature, infection or illness). Details of other illnesses and the period of exclusion from Pre-school are shown in the following link

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1194947358374](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947358374). Please also inform the Pre-School as to the nature of any infection / illness your child has so that we can alert other parents / carers if necessary. Please note children who have been vomiting or had diarrhoea should not come into Pre-school until **48 hours** has elapsed since the last attack. Children must be kept away from pre-school for **48 hours** from the start of taking antibiotics or other medication (even if they have had it before) in case of allergic reaction.

### **Car Park Barrier**

During pick up, cars parked at the road side cause a hazard to pedestrians and the children. A temporary fence is placed across the car park entrance to ensure the safety of the children during the session. The staff do not remove the barrier at the end of the session as this would result in your children being left under supervised. Providing the children are not in the outdoor area, could we please encourage those arriving first to roll back the temporary fence to enable everyone to park safely in the car park; it is a huge benefit having dedicated parking, please use it.

### **Collecting your children**

We have a password system in place to ensure that people collecting children are easily identifiable to the staff; please ensure that **all** people collecting your child are aware of your password. Please also bear in mind that even if the person collecting is known to some of the staff, if they are not known to the member of staff at the entrance door, entrance to the hall will not be allowed, until they have been identified. We also have a list of people authorised to collect the children, if you would like to add another person to your list, or to change or be reminded of your password, please talk to Janice or Jenny.

Thank you for your continued support.

Woodham Mortimer Staff Team