



# Woodham Mortimer Pre-School

Newsletter January 2012

Pre-School Mobile Number: 07742 228077

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas! A big thank you for all of the good wishes, cards and presents given to the staff at Christmas.

This term we welcome Abigail Closs, Isla Nunn, Jack Darling, Henry Page, Bessie Ratley and Toby Cook who joined us at the end of last term, we wish the children and their family's happy times with us.

## Term Dates

*Spring Term 2012:* 3rd January – 29th March

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

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

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

*Spring Half Term:* 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February

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

*Cleaning days* Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, Friday 20th July

## Important Dates

Grandparents' Week: 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February

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

## Topics for this half term

This half term will begin by listening and talking to the children about their memories of Christmas, this gives the children an opportunity to speak in front of a group to build their self confidence and to share their memories with their friends. Following the children's continued interest in stories, our main topic for this half term will be Books and Stories. We will be reading and talking about some traditional stories, supporting the children to act the story out and to understand the characters and progression of the story. We will also be looking at the celebrations for the Chinese New Year and this half term will also see the return of our Grandparents' Week, which the visiting Grandparents and children really enjoyed last year. All Grandparents are welcome to visit us, to stay for a while or to come for the whole session. They can talk about an interest or hobby or just come in to play with the children. Please let Janice or Jenny know if you have a Grandparent that will be joining us.

Date	Topic	Letter of the Week
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Christmas Memories	O
9 <sup>th</sup> January	The Enormous Turnip	P
16 <sup>th</sup> January	The Enormous Turnip	Q
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Chinese New Year	R
30 <sup>th</sup> January	The Three Billy Goats Gruff	S
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Grandparents week	T

## Early Years Professional Status and Training

Janice has now completed the final stage of Early Years Professional Status and will find out the results in March.

Jenny attended a two day Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator Course in November and takes on the role of Deputy SENCO, with Janice continuing as the SENCO.

Janice attended a heuristic play and treasure basket course last term, resulting in the addition of many household and natural items for the children to investigate. The course talked about the benefits of playing with resources where the children are able to make up their own games and rules, the benefits include

improving concentration skills, problem solving skills and using imagination. This has been witnessed many times in the last term where the younger children have collected the items and used them to group into similar types of resources, encouraging early maths skills, for later work in addition and subtraction. The older children have used the resources to enhance their role play from using the wooden pegs to represent their camp fire on a make believe camping holiday to using the items for wands, these all encourage the children creative thinking skills and imagination that will assist with later literacy work at school. Janice also attended an Early Year Conference on Personal, social and emotional development.

### **Learning Journey Books**

During your child's time at Pre-school their key person records their development in a Learning Journey Book; these are then presented to your child when they leave Pre-school to move onto formal schooling. The books contain photos, pieces of artwork, our termly observations and next steps, your holiday memories sheets and many other items relating to your child's time with us. Whilst we share these books with you at our annual parents evening, we would like you to have an opportunity to view them more regularly. These will now be on display for you to look through, to share with your child at Pre-school or to use as an informal opportunity to discuss your child with their key person. Each week a different key person will be displaying their key children's learning journey books, on the days they are working at Pre-school. The books will be left on the brown table just inside the entrance to the main hall on the right hand side, please feel free to look through them. The order for display will be:

9<sup>th</sup> January Julia, 16<sup>th</sup> January Caroline & Susan, 23<sup>rd</sup> January Alison & Frances, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan Jenny, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb Janice

### **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). Please also inform the Pre-School as to the nature of the infection / illness so that we can alert other parents / carers if necessary. 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