



Woodham Mortimer Pre-School

Newsletter September 2012

Pre-School Mobile Number: 07742 228077

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back, we hope you have had a relaxing summer break.

A big welcome to Grace Matthews, Taanvi Negi, Darcy Banks, Holly Holmes, Imogen Craigie, Oliver Bennett and Isabel Bennett who join us this term; we wish the children and their family happy times with us.

On behalf of all of the staff, thank you for the many kind words, cards and presents that we received at the end of last term; a special thank you also for the Prezzo voucher that we will be using later in the year for a Staff Christmas Meal, they are all very much appreciated.

Term Dates

Autumn 2012

Term: Tuesday 4th September 2012 to Thursday 20th December 2012

Pre-school closed for:

Half term - 29th October 2012 to 2nd November 2012

Staff Training Day - Thursday 15th November 2012

Spring 2013

Term: Monday 7th January 2013 to Thursday 28th March 2013

Pre-school closed for:

Half term - 18th February 2013 to 22nd February 2013

Staff Training Day - TBA

Summer 2013

Term: Tuesday 16th April 2013 – Friday 19th July 2013

Pre-school closed for:

Half term - 27th May 2013 to 31st May 2013

Staff Training Day - TBA

Important Dates

Pre-School Equality Working Group Meeting – 28th September 1.15 to 2.15 at Pre-school

Pre-School AGM – Tuesday 23rd October

Pre-School Harvest Festival Service - Woodham Mortimer Church – Wednesday 3rd

October 12.30 to 1pm all welcome

Family Disco - Saturday 6th October, 5.30pm to 7.30pm at West Maldon Community Centre

Christingle Service - 12th December, Woodham Mortimer Church 4pm all welcome

Topics for this half term

Week	Topic	Letter of the Week
4 th September	Holidays	A
10 th September	Holidays	B
17 th September	Holidays	C
24 th September	Holidays	D
1 st October	Harvest	E
8 th October	Autumn	F
15 th October	Autumn	G
22 nd October	Autumn	H

Ideas and information for parents and carers

A website 'The Foundation Years' has been created to give support and ideas for parents, carers and people working with young children. Further details on the revised Early Years Foundation stage Curriculum can be found here together with lots of other useful information, please take a look www.foundationyears.org.uk

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:

10th Sept: Susan, 17th Sept: Julia, 24th Sept: Caroline, 1st Oct: Alison, 8th Oct: Frances, 15th Oct: Jenny, 22nd Oct: 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.



Language and Communication Development for young children

Essex County Council has recently launched a new initiative to promote language and communication development in young children. More details with some useful ideas and activities can be found by clicking on

the following link www.essex.gov.uk/tlc

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. 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