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**Newsletter – November 2012**

### Janice Leaving

We are sad to announce that our Pre-School Manager Janice Williams has decided to move on. Her last day with us will be at the end of November. Janice has been with us since 2007 and has made a fantastic contribution to the Pre-School and developed her professional qualifications to an excellent level. She will be missed by all the staff, children and parents, and we wish her all the best in all that she does.

We are now advertising for a new Manager and are looking to hire an outstanding candidate to continue Janice's excellent work. The job advert is on the pre-school website.

### New Website

Woodham Mortimer Pre-School has a new website!! We are very excited about it and will be keeping it much more up to date with news and information.

There is a calendar showing all upcoming events, term dates and letter/topic of the week which will be regularly updated. Other important information like session times, staff and committee information and the newsletters are also available on the site.

We have plans to add more great features over the coming weeks, including photo galleries so you can see what your little ones are getting up to during their sessions.

Posts on the site can be commented on, so please give us your feedback this way or by emailing us – we would love to hear what you would like to see on the site.

### Committee Update

We are delighted to welcome a new Chair in Julie Bennett (Oliver & Isabel's mum) and Vice Chair in Clare Craigie (Imogen's mum). Kate Woodroof is also our new Secretary, Jenny Shaw remains Treasurer.

Many thanks to Sara Day, Sally Kitchen and Kate Tokgoz for all their hard work and commitment. We are delighted that they are to remain on the committee.

Keep an eye on the website for committee news, our next meeting is Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November, we are always looking for more volunteers to help, so get in touch if you are interested.

### Christmas Events

We will be holding a Christmas Craft event on Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. The children will be making crafty Christmas gifts and decorations whilst you can relax with a cuppa and a cake! More details to follow soon, keep an eye on the website...

See the diary dates below for the Nativity Play, Christingle Service and Christmas Party too!

### Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Thurs, 15 <sup>th</sup> November             | Pre-School closed (polling station for PCC elections).                 |
| Fri, 23 <sup>rd</sup> November               | Portrait photos at Pre-School with Melinda Whiting – book your slot!   |
| Weds, 12 <sup>th</sup> December              | Nativity Play at Woodham Mortimer Church at 12:15pm.                   |
| Sat, 15 <sup>th</sup> December               | Christmas Craft event at Pre-School – 3:00pm – 5:00pm.                 |
| Weds, 19 <sup>th</sup> December              | Christingle Service at WM Church at 4:00pm. Siblings welcome.          |
| Thurs, 20 <sup>th</sup> December             | Christmas Party – 11:00am – 2:00pm. Last day of Autumn term.           |
| Mon, 7 <sup>th</sup> January                 | First day of Spring term.  |
| Mon, 21 <sup>st</sup> January                | Staff Inset training day. Pre-School closed.                           |
| Fri, 25 <sup>th</sup> January                | Equality Working Group – information at Pre-School, see Jenny Girling. |
| Mon, 4 <sup>th</sup> February                | Grandparents Week.   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> February | Half Term.   |
| Thurs, 28 <sup>th</sup> March                | Last day of Spring term.   |

See the calendar on our website for up to date information and all 2012/13 term dates.

## **Outdoor Play, Rain or Shine!**

At Woodham Mortimer Pre-School we believe there are many important benefits to outside play every day, whatever the weather. We encourage our children to enjoy this in all the seasons and they love everything from summer sports day events, to jumping in puddles, kicking the autumn leaves and making snow angels.

Please remember to send your children to pre-school with wellies and a waterproof coat. You could also consider purchasing waterproof trousers for outside play in the winter months – they can be bought from At Your Leisure in Maldon High Street from £4.50 a pair.

Don't forget to put children's names in their outdoor clothing and boots.

## **Shedtastic!**

The pre-school has a new storage shed thanks to members of the Maldon Leo Club who raised £400 for us. We desperately needed a new shed to make sure our toys, games and play equipment did not get ruined in the old dilapidated ones.

## **Family Disco**

The family disco was a great success. The children all had a brilliant time and it was lovely to see so many faces old and new as well as raise some money for the pre-school – a fabulous total of £206! Many thanks to all the staff and committee members (and Melinda Whiting!) who made the event possible.

## **Session Requests**

Session request sheets will soon be issued for parents to indicate which sessions they require in January.

## **Birth Certificates**

If you received a request for your child's birth certificate and have not yet provided it, please do – you can either hand a copy in at Pre-School or email us one.

## **Equality Working Group**

There will be an Equality Working Group on 25th January at 1:15pm at the Pre-School hall. All parents are welcome. If you would like any information regarding the group please speak to Jenny Girling, or see the hand-out on the parents table.

## **Photo Portraits**

On Friday November 23rd there will be the chance to get professional photo portraits of your children produced by Melinda Whiting. Siblings are welcome to join the session and the photos can also be ordered as a range of gift items. Sessions are available between 12:15pm – 1:30pm and 3:30pm – 4:30pm. Please book a session using booking sheet in pre-school.

## **Polling Day**

Please note that the pre-school will be closed on Thursday November 15th, as the hall is being used as a polling station. We are using the closure to conduct Inset training for staff to minimise disruption to parents.

## **Learning Journey**

We know you enjoy looking through your child's Learning Journey Book. These books are very precious to your child's key person who dedicates many hours of work (much of which is unpaid) to completing them. See below for dates for viewing.

## **Easyfundraising.org**

If you shop online, please consider registering at the easyfundraising website and supporting Woodham Mortimer Pre-School. See our website for how to do it – it is easy!

## **Reminders**

Please remember not to park on the road – use our car park as it is much safer, first to arrive should roll back the barrier!

Please remember that all adults collecting children must be known to us and use our password system.

## **Letters, Topics & Learning Journey**

| <b>Week Starting</b>      | <b>Letter</b> | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Learning Journey</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> November  | I             | Bonfire Night | Susan                   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> November | J             | Diwali        | Julia                   |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> November | K             | Christmas     | Caroline                |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> November | L             | Christmas     | Alison                  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> December  | M             | Christmas     | Frances                 |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> December | N             | Christmas     | Jenny                   |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> December | O             | Christmas     |                         |