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**Newsletter – January 2013**

## 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.

## Hello from Lorraine Scott

I am very excited to be joining Woodham Mortimer Pre-School and I would like to say a very warm hello to everyone and to briefly introduce myself to you all. I began my career in Early Years many years ago when my own children started to attend and I got talked in to joining the committee and helping out during sessions. I found I loved working in the environment and began training and working in Pre-School when my children started school. Many years later I now have a BA in Early Childhood, Early Years Professional Status and started on my MA, as well as lots of experience and knowledge. I am extremely committed and dedicated in providing the highest quality care and education for all children and in continuing the fantastic work of the Pre-School and its magnificent staff and committee. I look forward to meeting to you all.

## Welcome New Starters

A big welcome to Finnley Orton, Oliver Servis, Alannah Rumble, Reis Togkoz, Daniel Tachauer, Edgar Woodroof, Spencer Green and Jude Peacock

who join us this term; we wish the children and their families happy times with us.

## Donate Books

We are trying to raise awareness of the Pre-School in various ways. One of these is donating new and used picture books to service providers who may have clients waiting with children. This is a scheme we have run in the past and you may well have seen books with our label inside at the local doctors, dentists etc. The books are looking a little tired so we thought we would renew them. If you have any new or good condition children's books you would like to donate to Pre-School they would be gratefully received. If you could either leave with a member of staff or Kate Harpham (Chloe's mum and committee member). Many thanks!

## Social Gathering – All Welcome

We are having a social evening on Monday February 4<sup>th</sup> at The Generals Arms, Little Baddow. The Committee members would like to invite staff and parents along for a drink and a chat. With so many new starters both children and staff it would be nice to get to know you all. See you there from 8pm. If you would like to share a lift or a taxi then email the Pre-School and we will see what we can organise.

## Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

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.
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Grandparents Week.
Mon, 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Social Evening All Welcome - 8pm Generals Arms, Little Baddow.
18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Half Term.
Fri, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Family Disco.
Thurs, 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of Spring term.
Thurs, 11 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Stay and Play.
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Return for Summer Term.
Sat, 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Jumble Sale, Danbury Village Hall.
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Half term.
Sat, 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Summer Fete.
Fri, 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of Summer term.

See the calendar on our website for up to date information and all 2013 term dates.

## Grandparents Week

**February 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>** will see the return of 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 to a whole session. They can talk about an interest or share a hobby. The water colour painting went down well last year with some wonderful paintings being done by the children and the cake decorating was of great interest too. Alternatively you can help out on a craft table or just play or read with the children. Please let Lorraine or Jenny know if you have a grandparent that will be joining us.

## Family Disco

The family disco was such a great success last time we thought we would put on another one. The date will be Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, more detail to follow.

## Easter Stay and Play

From time to time we hold "Stay and Play" events during the holidays to raise funds for the Pre-School and for parents to meet up and the children to have some fun. We will be holding such an event during the Easter holidays - **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April**. There will be an Easter egg hunt on the field and various crafts and toys to play with indoors as well as refreshments. More details to follow.

## Jumble Sale

We will be holding a Jumble Sale at Danbury Village Hall on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**. If after the Christmas glut you are thinking of a clear out please think of us. You will need to bring your jumble to Danbury Village Hall on the morning of the sale as we do not have the facilities to store and transport it. We will also require volunteers to help set up, run stalls and pack up on the day. More details to follow. Whilst you are having a clear out, read below about Music Magpie and printer cartridge schemes we are running.

## Music Magpie & Printer Cartridges

We are collecting unwanted CDs and DVDs each one earning the Pre-School 50p. Check out the website to learn more [www.musicmagpie.co.uk](http://www.musicmagpie.co.uk). Please hand them to Tasha Johnson (John's mum). We are also

making some money from old printer cartridges there are freepost envelopes on the signing in table at Pre-School. Thank you very much, it all adds up and helps.

## Summer Fete

The Summer Fete is our primary fundraiser of the year. As a charity we rely on this event to be able to purchase new equipment and toys. The date of the fete this year will be Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June- please put it in your diary now. We will need a team of volunteers for the planning and organising as well as helping out on the day. If you are able to join the summer fair team the committee would really appreciate it. Please speak to a Julie Bennett (Oliver's mum) or Clare Craigie (Imogen's mum) or email the Pre-School if you are interested.

## Food Policy

You should all have read the food policy at the Pre-school, can we just remind you to cut grapes in half, lengthways. Thank you.

## Birth Certificates & Ethnic Forms

If you received a request for your child's birth certificate or ethnic form and have not yet provided it, please do – you can either hand a copy in at Pre-School or email us one. These are required for funding and an Early Years Census which is carried out this month.

## 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.

## Easyfundraising.org

Another way the pre-School makes money is through your on line shopping so 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!

## Letters, Topics & Learning Journey

Week Starting	Letter	Topic	Learning Journey
7th January	p	Look back at Christmas	Susan
14 <sup>th</sup> January	q		Julia
21 <sup>st</sup> January	r		Caroline
28 <sup>th</sup> January	s		Alison & Nicki
4 <sup>th</sup> February	t	Grandparents week	Jenny
11 <sup>th</sup> February	u		Lorraine