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**Newsletter – February 2013**

## Welcome New Starters

A big welcome to George Liu-Jones, Rhea Hodson and Henry Buckle who join us this half term; we wish the children and their families happy times with us.

## Half Term

We hope you all had a great half term. Last half term we all had such fun with a real fruit and vegetable stall set up, Grandparents Week and our Chinese Week was much enjoyed by the children. They tasted some noodles, crackers and lychees, had fun role-playing in the Chinese restaurant and really enjoyed doing a dragon dance. There will be some new photos put up of Chinese Week soon and the children's collaged snakes and flags are on display.

## Week 1 - Focus of the Week

The week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> February we will be enjoying the book "Whatever Next!" by Jill Murphy.



We will be; Acting out the story, having a picnic on the moon, decorating moon shape biscuits, designing and creating a big rocket, using a variety of shapes to create rockets and using different shapes, colours and textures to create a kitchen roll rocket.

If you would like to follow this up at home, here are a few ideas you might like to try; Talk about going on picnics and what you would have in your lunch box. Talk about going to the moon and what clothing you would have to wear. Would it be hot or cold up in space? How would they get there? Do you think animals live in space? When it gets dark, go outside and look up at the stars. See if you can spot any star constellations? Come back to Pre-School and tell us if you found any.

## Request- Cereal Boxes for Backpacks!

In order for our children to picnic on the moon they will need cereal box backpacks. If you have any spare empty boxes please bring them into Pre-School week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> February.

The "Focus of the Week" will be displayed on the window at Pre-School and will be updated on the website weekly for your information.

## Request- CD Player

We need a basic CD Player, we wondered if any parents might have an old working one they could donate as Pre-School does not have one currently.

## Red Nose Day

We feel that Comic Relief is a good cause and would like the opportunity to talk to the children about charity so if your child attends Pre-School on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March you can donate £1 and come dressed in your pyjamas.

## Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

Fri, 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Nose Day – donate £1 and dress in your pyjamas!
Wed, 20 <sup>th</sup> March	12.30pm Easter Bonnet Service at the church.
Sat, 23 <sup>rd</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.
Mon, 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Pre-School closed – Cleaning Day
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Return for Summer Term.
Sat, 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Jumble Sale, Danbury Village Hall.
Tue, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Parents Evening 6 – 8.30pm – booking sheets out soon.
Thurs, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Pre-School closed – Polling Day and Inset Staff Training.
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

Thank you to all the Grandparents who were able to visit us and share their time and experience with the children. We all had a lovely week. Particular thanks go to Oliver and Isabel's Gran and Grandad, who did some amazing cooking with the children, pizza and rice krispie cakes. We hope many dads can come join us in June when we have Dads Week.

## Social Gathering

Thank you to all who attended our social evening on Monday February 4<sup>th</sup> at The Generals Arms, Little Baddow. It was lovely to see staff and parents and have a chance to have a chat. Admittedly it was mainly about the children but they didn't dominate every conversation!

## Family Disco \*date change\*

The family disco was such a great success last time we thought we would put on another one. The date will be **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**, put it in your diary. 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 you are having 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.

## 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 help please speak to a Julie Bennett (Oliver's mum) or Clare Craigie (Imogen's mum) or email the Pre-School if you are interested.

## Donate Books

A big thank you to all who donated books. As you know 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. They should be delivered soon why not ask your children to do WMPS book spot when you are out and about. This is an ongoing project so if you're ever having a clear out, think of us.

## WMPS are Winners!!

I'm happy to confirm that Woodham Mortimer Pre-School has won the StoryPhones competition prize run by Under 5 magazine, Pre-school Learning Alliance. We will receive a Little Listener MP3 player shortly.



## Reminders

Please remember to label all your children's clothes.

Please remember to cut grapes length ways if you put them in your child's lunch.

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 and Topics

Week Starting	Letter	Topic
25 <sup>th</sup> February	v	This half term we will be looking at stories and doing some exciting activities inspired by books. The Focus of the Week will be displayed on the window at Pre-School and will be updated on the website weekly too. We like to focus our planning on what children are particularly interested in and parents are encouraged and welcome to share with us anything they have noticed at home to help us plan effectively.
4 <sup>th</sup> March	w	
11 <sup>th</sup> March	x	
18 <sup>th</sup> March	y	
25 <sup>th</sup> March	z	