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Newsletter – September 2013

Welcome New Starters

A big welcome to **Daniel Blighton, Myah Edwards, Grace McCambridge, Lucy Hodgson, Willaim Hayes, Emma Johnson, Louie Buckle** and **Willow Ryland** who join us this term; we wish the children and their families happy times with us.

Staff Thank-You

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 was used and really enjoyed by all the staff. All very much appreciated!

Fundraising – Quiz Night

Our Pre-School is a charity and the fees only cover the basics, so we organise many events to raise valuable funds. Our next event is a Quiz Night on Saturday 5th October at 7pm for a 7.30 start. Tickets are £7.50 and this includes a ploughman's supper. They are available from Julie Bennett (Committee Chair and Oliver and Isabel's mum). It will be held at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall. There will be 8 tables of 8 people.

If you can get a whole team together, then great, if not, let us know and we will try to put you in a team.

We really need your support - if you are unable to attend maybe you could support by providing a raffle prize.

Holiday Forms

Please remember to return your holiday forms - the children love to discuss what they have been up to over the summer. The forms are added to your child's Learning Journey as a keepsake and are lovely to look back upon.

Show and Share

We encourage children to bring things in from home to Show and Share, and are delighted when they do, especially if they begin with the letter of the week! Please make sure these items are placed in the Show and Share box on arrival to avoid the item being lost during the session and staff needing to search through items already packed away. If the children have their items on them during the sessions, it also causes potential issues with our risk assessments. These are important to ensure all resources and activities are age-appropriate and safe for the children. This is particularly important as we have many two year olds at Pre-School. Thank you for your understanding!

Upcoming Dates For Your Diary

Mon 9 th September	Autumn term starts
Wed 2 nd October	Harvest Festival, Woodham Mortimer Church, 12.30 – 1pm all welcome
Sat 5 th October	Quiz Night at Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, 7pm
Mon 28 th Oct – Fri 1 st Nov	Half Term
Wed 6 th November	AGM Woodham Mortimer Village Hall, 8pm – all welcome
Sat 16 th November	Family Disco, West Maldon Community Centre, 4.30 – 6.30pm
Thurs 5 th December	Christmas Craft Afternoon, 3.30 - 5.30pm (tbc)
Wed 11 th December	Pre-School Nativity Woodham Mortimer Church, 12.30pm
Wed 18 th December	Christingle Service Woodham Mortimer Church, 4pm, all welcome
Fri 20 th December	Last day of Winter term
Mon 6 th January	First day of Spring term
Mon 17 th Feb – Fri 21 st	Half Term
Mon 24 th February	Pre-School Closed – Staff Training Day
Fri 4 th April	Last day of Spring term
Tues 22 nd April	First day of Summer Term
Mon 26 th May – Fri 30 th	Half Term
Thurs 17 th July	Last day of Summer Term

Outdoor Play

We strongly believe in the benefits of children playing outside every day, and 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 a waterproof coat, wellies and a change of clothes on wet days. Wherever possible please name all items clearly.

Information for Parents & 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.

Essex County Council has launched an initiative to promote language and communication development in young children. More details with some useful ideas and activities can be found on the website at www.essex.gov.uk/tlc

To build on the good practice that has been developed through this programme a further initiative has been developed - The Early Language Development Programme. The aims of this programme are to ensure young children develop the language skills they need to be ready for school. All our members of staff attended in-house training to ensure that they are familiar with the positive approaches to supporting communication development on the 6th September 2013.

Dad's Week

We would like to thank Ian, Oliver and Isabel's Dad and Isaac and Madeline's dad for coming in and having fun with the children during our Dad's week. We are planning on having it again this year and a Grandparent's week, we will let you know the dates as soon as possible. It is always lovely to meet members of the children's families!

Letters of the Week

Please help your child to find and bring in something beginning with the letter of the week.

Week Starting	Letter
9 th September	a
16 th September	b
23 rd September	c
30 th September	d
7 th October	e
14 th October	f
21 st October	g

Staff Training

We have a dedicated staff team who are always looking to improve their skills. Currently we have Jenny Girling studying for her Level 5 and Alison Herridge and Nikki Long who are studying for Level 3 Child Care Qualifications. Good Luck to you all.

Learning Journey Books

Every child's Learning Journey book is always available every session for you to look at and add to. They can be found at the entrance to the main hall on the brown table. Each Child's book tells an individual story of their unique learning journey, what they are learning and how they are learning, Please try to look at your child's learning journey and speak to their Key Person as often as possible about what your child has been doing, what they have enjoyed, what they need to be doing more of and what you can do at home.

Collecting 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 Lorraine or Jenny.

Reminders

Please remember to sign your child in the register when dropping off and picking up.

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 cannot 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 ask 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! Please be aware of the need to drive into the car park carefully as there is a risk that children will be walking across it.