



Woodham Mortimer Pre-School

Newsletter June 2012

Pre-School Mobile Number: 07742 228077

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back, we hope you have had a relaxing half term and enjoyed the Jubilee celebrations!

A belated welcome to Holly Stallard who joined us last term; we wish the Holly and her family happy times with us.

A big thank you to Ali (Ruby James' dad), Dominic (Evie's Dad), Justin (Freya's Dad) and Tim (Phoebe's Dad) who joined us for Dad's Week last term, the children loved having visitors and we hope they all enjoyed being shown around by their children and joining in with their play. We are always happy to have visitors at Pre-school, this really helps the children gain confidence in talking to adults and learning more about them, it also gives the visitors a great opportunity to see the children in action; this may be your last chance if your child is due to start school in September. If you or a member of your family would like to visit/ help out please let Janice or Jenny G know.

Thank you to the parents who joined us for Parents' Evening, it is always a great opportunity for us to share with you, your children progression and the things that they enjoy taking part in at Pre-school. We hope you found the evening useful.

As the weather, hopefully, continues to be sunny please ensure that your child has sun cream applied to them before they come into Pre-school in the morning. Please also supply a named hat; this should be placed in the hat box at the beginning of the session. Where children are staying all day at Pre-school on a Tuesday or Thursday, we will apply sun cream to them before they go outside in the afternoon if the weather is still sunny; please leave a bottle of named sun cream on the table next to the parents signing in book on these sessions only. If you are not happy for the staff to apply sun cream to the children staying all day, please let Janice or Jenny G know.

The year our Sports Day will be held on Wednesday 4th July. The format will be different this year, as we have so many younger children and the children leaving will be taking part in the Pre-school Mini Olympics. The usual Wednesday morning session will run for those children that are usually in the Wednesday morning session, the session will, however, end at 11.15. The session will then be followed by a family picnic on the Pre-school field; all members of your family and extended family are welcome to attend. During the picnic the Pre-school staff will be organising races which the children may take part in if they wish; the children will however remain their parents responsibility at all times. There will also be an obstacle course for the children to take part in and a sponsored teddy toddle around the field to raise funds for the Pre-school. Sponsor forms will be given to the children a couple of weeks before the event; please support us to raise funds for a new Pre-school camera, our old one has broken and we are no longer able to take photos of the children for their learning journey books and to evidence what we have been doing at Pre-school. If we are able to raise any additional funds these will be put towards replacing our very worn out middle shed.

Pre-School Summer Fete Sunday 24th June 2012

This is our primary fund raiser of the year. We are a registered charity and rely on this event to be able to purchase new equipment and toys. Please do whatever you can to support us. You have received a letter explaining how you can help and next week a list of catering requirements will be available too. Bad weather on the day will not stop us going ahead but will impact the amount we could potentially raise. Our fabulous Raffle is more weatherproof and if we can manage to sell all our tickets we will be well on our way to raising the funds we really need. Remember the stubs need to be back to us on the day at the latest to be entered in the draw and please return any unsold tickets to pre-school next week so we can try and sell them on the day. We have a few more booklets if you are able to sell more, please just ask!

Pre-School Mini Olympics Friday 13th July 2012

Our leavers have been invited to represent us in an inter-pre-school competition at the Plume School on Friday 13th July 2012; these children will be accompanied by two members of staff and their parents. Pre-School will be opening as usual for our Friday Morning Session.

Term Dates

Summer Term 2012: 23rd April – Thursday 18th July

Autumn Term 2012: Tuesday 4th September 2012 – Thursday 20th December 2012

Half term: 29th October 2012 – 2nd November 2012

The pre-school will be **closed** on the following days:

Inset training: Wednesday 27th June 2012

Thursday 15th November 2012

Important Dates

Pre-School Summer Fete: Sunday 24th June 11.30am – 3.00pm

Sports Day: Wednesday 4th July

Pre-School Mini Olympics: Plume School, Friday 13th July 2012 – Leavers only

Leaver's Party: Thursday 19th July 11.45 to 2.45, including a leavers presentation at 2pm
all children leaving Pre-School in July 2012 are welcome, together with all children usually attending the Thursday pm session

Topics for this half term

Week	Topic	Letter of the Week
11 th June	Fathers' day	G
18 th June	Olympics/ Paralympics	H
25 th June	Olympics/ Paralympics	I
2 nd July	Olympics/ Paralympics (sports day 4 th July)	J
9 th July	Olympics/ Paralympics	K
16 th July	Messy week (leavers party Thursday 19 th)	L

Session Requests for the Autumn Term

You will shortly receive a session request form for the Autumn Term. We have 22 children leaving us at the end of July and we wish them all well. This will create some flexibility in the sessions we can offer for September. Children born between 1st April and 31st August 2009 will qualify for 15 hours of Free Early Education Entitlement which can be used for sessions with us.

We would like to highlight in particular the Tuesday and Thursday afternoon sessions (11.45am – 2.45pm) which we restrict to over threes in order to provide a programme tailored to the needs of the older children. When your child reaches 3 years old he / she can stay all day or attend the afternoon sessions, during which we aim to provide activities which will further enhance their learning journey including activities encouraging letter and number recognition, opportunities to practice writing their name if they choose to and focusing on creativity through music, movement and art.

Children staying all day have lunch together which provides an excellent opportunity to learn social skills and to practice eating together as they would be expected to do at primary school. Your child will need to bring a clearly named healthy packed lunch which contains an ice pack in warmer weather. There is also a lunch club on Mondays where the children over 3 can bring a lunch and stay until 12.45pm (Additional cost £2.15). If you can return your forms promptly it helps us to plan sessions and staffing for the new school year.

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:

11th June Susan, 18th June Julia, 25th June Caroline, 2nd July Alison and Frances, 9th July Jenny, 16th July Janice

Equality Working Group

Our first meeting was held on the 18th May 2012. A hand-out was given to all that attended explaining why equality is so important. This meeting was to get to know all that attended the group and to set the terms of reference. Our next meeting will be held on Friday 28th September at 1.15 for no longer than an hour, in the Village Hall. New members of the group are always welcome to join us. The next meeting will be to write a Mission Statement for the group. A copy of the hand-out and terms of reference will be available on the parents signing in table for you to look at.

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