



THE WOODLAND PRE-SCHOOL

*The Guide and Scout Centre, Coates Lane,
Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5UX
01494 521953 (8.00am – 3.30pm)*

www.thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

January 2020

Happy New Year! Welcome back to our children and parents who are already with us and a very warm welcome to our new starters. We hope that you and your child/children have had a lovely Christmas holiday and are looking forward to the new term as much as we are! Thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards – the chocolates and biscuits will keep us going for a few weeks!

Under the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, your child will be given the opportunity to learn and develop through the activities and experiences we provide. If you have any questions about Woodlands at any time please speak to Katy or Zoe either at the start or the end of the morning session. Regular dialogue between us is both helpful and important to enable your child to gain the most benefit from his/her pre-school education.

During the first few weeks of the term, we will be gently introducing the children to our routines and thinking about how we enjoyed the Christmas break.

We like to involve the children in the decision-making process when we choose our themes every few weeks. They get to vote for their choice (from a choice of 3) and the most popular choice is our theme for a few weeks. This gives the children a basic understanding of the British Value of democracy. This week the children voted for our next theme to be "Up in the air". This might include activities linked to kites, aeroplanes, helicopters and clouds. As always, we will be ready to follow the children's interests and ideas – if you have any thoughts or suggestions please do let us know. We love it when children bring in contributions linked to our theme that they may have made or found at home.

Each week we take a special interest in a particular phonetic sound. These will be included in our topics, 'Circle Time' conversations and songs, artwork and games.

We will be making bird cake in the week beginning 21st January. Please help us by providing some empty plastic pots (e.g. yoghurt pots) and some suitable ingredients that week such as cheese, raisins, stale cake, a small amount of bread, bird seed or vegetable suet. Please note we cannot keep these items before Monday 20th. This will coincide with the BIG Garden Birdwatch on the weekend of 25th-27th January. If you would like more information about this please look at the RSPB website as this is something you may like to do with your children.



At the end of this newsletter there is a 'dates for your diary' section with more details about specific events but not the topics and themes as the children will help decide these as we progress through the term.

Animal Groups

Each child has been allocated to an animal group which he or she stays in during his or her time at Woodlands. Whilst you should continue to register your child in the Acorn room, the children in the animal group will go into the Beechnut room on their animal group day for a smaller group activity time. The children will all play together again after snack time. There is a soft toy animal and diary which go home with each child for a week usually once a term, and we would like you to record some of the activities that your child does with Hoot (Owl group), Prickles (Hedgehog group), Fluffy (Rabbit group) or Stripey (Badger group)! **Please ensure you return the soft toy animal and book in time for the group the following week.**



Mondays – Owl group
Wednesdays – Rabbit group

Tuesdays - Hedgehog group
Thursdays – Badger group



Key-person

The key-person system operates for all children. Should you wish to tell us anything about your child or discuss his/her progress, please contact your key-person. You can also talk to Katy or Zoe at any time. Your key-person will introduce herself to you and your child during the first week back.

For new children information regarding your child's animal group, keyworker and days in Beechnut Room will be given to you separately.

Parent/Staff Evening

Our "parent evenings" are an opportunity for you to meet staff to discuss your child's progress and for you to look through their learning journal. Parents/carers are invited to attend on the evenings of Thursday 19th March for children in Owl & Badger groups and Thursday 26th March for children in Rabbit and Hedgehog groups. Nearer the date you will be sent a letter offering various time slots between 6.15pm and 8.30pm which is when you will have an opportunity to speak with your child's key person and the other staff member from the same animal group in a private meeting. We hope this will help working parents/carers.

Breakfast and Lunch Club

Breakfast club runs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8am-9am. Should there be enough interest we could also run one on Wednesdays. The cost is £8 and breakfast is supplied. There are spaces available so please speak to Karen if you would like your child to join us. For lunch club please remember to send your child with a variety of nutritious, tasty foods but no sweets, nuts or nut products e.g. peanut butter or Nutella. Drinks of water or milk are provided - there is no need to send in an additional drink. Please remember that fees are non-refundable for sickness or holidays.



Clothing

We try to use our outside area as much as possible. Children must bring a coat to Woodlands as we do not keep spares and we would like all children to have the opportunity to learn outdoors. If your child wears wellington boots to Woodlands please remember to bring other footwear to change into. Hats and gloves are also important – please name everything! Please store wellingtons on the bottom of the coat racks along with the children's rucksacks – it is easier for the children to access their own coats if there is not too much hanging up on the pegs.



We have a stock of High Visibility waistcoats which can be worn over coats – these cost £3.50. Please see Karen if you wish to purchase one of these or any items of Woodlands clothing. There is also a stock of second hand uniform in the box in the foyer - very useful to have a spare jumper or two!

Reminders

The main session at Woodlands starts at 9.00am. Prior to this time the staff will be setting up and therefore if you arrive early, we ask you to supervise your child particularly if they use the external play equipment. If at all possible, please try to walk to Woodlands to give your child an opportunity to walk/run before starting his/her morning with us!

However if walking is not possible please remember to park considerately when dropping off/collecting your child as we have had complaints from residents who live along Commonsides & Littleworth Road. Do not park across driveways or anywhere that means your child leaves the car on the drivers' side of the road. The corner of Commonsides with Littleworth Road is potentially dangerous so please park a little further away.

For the benefit of all the staff and children, please do not send your child to Woodlands if he/she has a cold, been sick or had diarrhoea. Children must be back to normal for 48 hours before returning to Woodlands. It is important that we all do our best to minimise the spread of germs. Please ring in to let us know if your child will not be attending that day for any reason. For longer periods of absence, a letter is appreciated. There are several leaflets on our website concerning illnesses in young children for you to read.

Karen Pearson, our administrator, will be at Woodlands on Mondays, Tuesday mornings and Thursdays to answer any questions about sessions, funding, application forms etc.

If you are seeking a place for your child at a primary school for the next academic year i.e. your child was born between 1/09/15 – 31/08/16, please make sure you have submitted your application by 3pm on **15th January 2020**. You should apply online – details are on the Bucks County Council website.

Library



All children are able to take home books from our library. Each book may be borrowed for a period of one week (one book at a time). If your child wishes to take a book home, please see a member of staff who will record the book title and date borrowed. Books must always be handed to a member of staff. Please note that if a book is lost or damaged whilst in your possession, Woodlands reserves the right to charge for a replacement.

Story sacks

We have several story sacks which you may borrow - these include books, games and ideas how you can explore reading together with your child. The families who have borrowed them have told us that their children have really enjoyed the experience. Please ask a member of staff for details.

Snow!

Please note that wherever possible Woodlands will endeavour to stay open. There is a copy of Woodlands snow policy attached to this email for your information. It will also be on the notice board and information about closure will be put on the Bucks County Council website. The Woodland Pre-School website and the Parents Face book page will also be updated. If in any doubt, please ring our telephone number – if unanswered after several rings we are closed!



If it snows during this half term please dress your child appropriately as we will go outside! (Spare trousers and socks are a good idea).

Help!

All the children like their parents to help occasionally. We find parental assistance invaluable especially with some of the craft ideas we hope to achieve this term although helping children with puzzles, reading stories, preparing the fruit or washing up are equally valuable. As we like to go outside, an extra pair of eyes is always welcome! Please speak to Katy or Zoe if you would like to come and help. Siblings over 2 years old are insured and can join us – perhaps younger ones can visit a friend or relative for a couple of hours or a morning?

Any clean small boxes for creative modelling this term will be helpful e.g. toothpaste cartons, jelly boxes, small cereal packets but no meat, dairy, medicine or nut packages please. We use newspaper for messy activities but often run out. If possible, please help by bringing some in from time to time. Thank you!

Please do not let your child bring sweets or biscuits in their pockets or bags. If you would like your child to share anything edible with the group, please make arrangements with Katy or Zoe first. We must all avoid any foods or packaging which contain or have been in contact with nut products. Thank you.

Dogs

If you bring your dog with you for drop off or pick up please can we ask that you tie them up securely while you drop off or collect your child. Please either tie them up outside the gate or by the wooded area that the scouts use. We have a few children who are nervous of dogs so would appreciate your cooperation.

Katy, Zoe & all the team

Dates for your diary.

January brings the snow,
Makes our feet and fingers glow.
February brings the rain,
Thaws the frozen pond again.

Week 1 w/c Monday 6th January 2020

Making new friends and learning routines

Week 2 w/c Monday 13th January 2020

Sounds of the week are s,a,t,p,i, n (we covered all of these last term!)

Theme Up in the Air

Week 3 w/c Monday 20th January 2020

Sound of the week is 'c' (as in cat) & 'k' (as in kite)

Winter at home - looking after our feathered friends. We will be making bird cake this week and would like a little food (not mouldy!) for the cake e.g. bread, cheese, raisins, solid vegetable fat, bird seed, apple etc. **Please DO NOT** donate any nuts or nut products. Thank you (from us and them!)

Week 4 w/c Monday 27th January 2020

Sound of the week is 'c' (as in cat) & 'k' (as in kite)

Tuesday 28th Yoga session with Jo Clarke

Week 5 w/c Monday 3rd February 2020

Letter sound of the week is e

Monday 3rd Minimoves session

Week 6 w/c 11th February 2020

Letter sound of the week is e

Friday 14th Rugbytots

Half - term holiday commences on Monday 17th February.

Week 7 w/c 24th February 2020

Letter sound of the week is h

Tuesday 28th Yoga session with Jo Clarke

Week 8 w/c 2nd March 2020

Letter sound of the week is r

Monday 2nd Library visit tbc

Thursday 5th World Book Day

Week 9 w/c 9th March 2020

Letter sound of the week is r

Tuesday 10th Yoga

Week 10 w/c 16th March 2020

Letter sound of the week is m

All week – Living Eggs

Thursday 19th Parents evening – badgers and owls

Week 11 w/c 23rd March 2020

Letter sound of the week is m

All week – Living Eggs

Wednesday 25th Mini moves

Thursday 26th Parents evening – hedgehogs and rabbits

Saturday 28th Easter Party

Week 12 w/c 30th March 2020

Recap all sounds of the week

Term finishes on Thursday 2nd April.

