



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

24th April 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back and a big “hello” to the new children and families who are joining us this term. I am very excited to be starting my new role as leader of The Woodland Preschool, my aim is for Woodlands to continue to flourish and for the children to learn with love and laughter as they did under Julia’s care. We will miss Julia’s wisdom and knowledge a lot but are hoping she will still pop in and see us regularly. We would also like to say “welcome” to Malar and Alison who are joining our team of fabulous staff. We hope you have all enjoyed the Easter break over the last couple of weeks. Fingers crossed that Spring has finally arrived and there will be warm days ahead as we will be going out on walks and visits as much as possible this term. There are local trips planned so please make a note of the important dates in your diaries or calendars now.

Themes & Activities

Each year we take the children to the woods behind the Guide & Scout Centre and along the valley to where the bluebells flower to enjoy the sensory experience of their sight and lovely scent. This year our walks are planned over 3 days - Wednesday 1st May, Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd May, leaving Woodlands at 10.00am each day. We will need at least 6 parent helpers per visit for these walks to go ahead– please sign the rota in the foyer if you are able to help. If your child doesn’t attend Woodlands on any of these days but would like to come along on the walk they are more than welcome to join us but will need to be accompanied by a parent or carer.



If you will be celebrating any special family, cultural or religious occasions between now and the end of the summer term, please do let us know as we would like to learn about and share significant events in your child’s life.

Key person

Your child is allocated a key person when he/she starts at Woodlands and it is our aim that this person does not change during his/her time at Woodlands.

Animal Groups



Every child belongs to an animal group and they meet each week (Owls on Mondays, Hedgehogs on Tuesdays, Rabbits on Wednesdays and Badgers on Thursdays). This term animal groups will spend the whole morning together until everybody goes outside. Each animal group has a soft toy animal which



your child will be able to take home usually for a week - the animal bags are given out on the appropriate animal group day - please try to remember to bring them back on the right



day! The owl, badger, hedgehog or rabbit will hopefully be included in your family activities and there is a notebook for you to write down what you have been doing – pictures and photos welcome! This encourages



communication and is hopefully something that you and your child will enjoy doing together. We try to ensure that each child takes home their animal at least once per term.

Parent Partnership

Whilst we are not holding parents’ evenings this term, should you wish to discuss your child’s progress, see his/her records or speak with your child’s key person or a leader, please let us know. The leaders and staff are available at the end of each morning to answer queries or discuss anything of interest or concern. However, for lengthier issues, where you wish your partner to be involved etc we will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. Woodlands has an “open door” policy and welcomes your comments and ideas.

Items of Interest

Your child is welcome to bring in an item of special interest to show to their key person and friends particularly if it is relevant to the topic we are looking at. Where possible we ask that you take the item home with you or put it in your child's bag before you leave as it saves distress at the end of the morning when it may have disappeared! Please dissuade your child from bringing toys from home.

Outside Play



There are many benefits to children learning outdoors and research shows that “apart from the obvious physical benefits, children also behave differently outside ... their level of conversation increases, there is a better gender mix and they have much more “can do” approach” (Helen Bilton, University of Reading). We will be outside as much as possible this term so please ensure your child has suitable clothing and footwear i.e. a jacket or coat and trainers or non-open toed shoes. If the weather is warm and sunny, please send your child wearing a named sun hat and apply suntan cream on exposed skin prior to Woodlands. Should you want to buy any new items of clothing such as T-shirts, polo shirts or sweatshirts please see Karen. The prices are on the notice board however we do also have a supply of second hand uniform for sale - now known as "Pre-loved"!



Arrivals and Departures

Your child's safety and happiness are of the utmost importance to us. Please encourage your child to hold your hand when walking to and from Woodlands. Do remember to shut the gate when arriving and – most importantly – when leaving Woodlands. This is for everyone's safety – children often run after their friends at leaving time and an open gate encourages this. We do our best to teach children road safety and appreciate your support.

Please note that the staff at Woodlands are responsible for your child when he/she has been brought inside the building and been noted on our register. You resume responsibility when you re-enter the building and collect your child (and possibly others by pre-arrangement) i.e. when you and your child are re-united at the end of the session.

Woodlands Library

Children are able to take home books from our library. Each book may be borrowed for a period of two weeks (one book at a time). If your child wishes to take a book home, please see a member of staff (Karen on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday) who will record the book title and date borrowed. Books must always be handed back to a member of staff - some books occasionally find their way back to the bookcase without our knowing! 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 5 story sacks - each one is available to borrow for a week at a time. Each story sack is based on a familiar children's story and the contents include props and games as well as the storybook. We hope they will help to promote a love of reading and assist your child with his or her language development. Full details of how to gain the maximum benefit from the story sack are supplied with it.

Creative Modelling!

We are always pleased to receive items for modelling, collage etc. However at the current time we have plenty so please look out for a request for fresh supplies in our weekly emails! Please do not bring any polystyrene containers, meat dishes, boxes which have held nuts or nut products or medicines e.g. painkillers.

Holidays & Absences

Please let us know if you will be taking any holidays during the summer term. Also, if your child is absent through ill health or a visit please let us know by telephoning in or writing a note about planned visits, holidays etc. Thank you.

Coats, hats etc

Coats are needed every day (until the temperature increases significantly), as we will go outside whenever possible. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL COATS, HATS, SHOES & BOOTS etc ARE NAMED. Please also label your child's water bottle frequently - we know that even the permanent marker pens have a habit of wearing off!

Schools

If your child is due to leave Woodlands at the end of this academic year please let us know which school he/she has been allocated to attend in September 2019. We liaise with all the primary schools and invite the reception teachers to visit us during the summer term where possible.

Pre-School Places

If you know of anyone who is interested in sending their child to Woodlands, please encourage them to contact us either via our website or by calling us to arrange a visit. We are currently full for this term but have spaces from September.

Lunch Club



Lunch Club continues to run on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12.00 –12.30 pm and children will need to bring a packed lunch, in a named box/bag. As the weather improves it would be advisable to add an icepack to the lunchbox. Please do not send in any additional sugary drinks - milk or water will be supplied. A commitment for the term is needed in order to arrange the correct number of staff. You will probably have already organised whether your child is staying for a short afternoon (pick up at 2.30) or for the extended session (pick up at 3.30)

Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)

Please bear in mind that if your circumstances have changed, you may be eligible for EYPP. Please see the Bucks County Council website for further information and an application form. You can also speak to Karen for guidance.

Help!

Finally, can we make a plea for parental help? We will not be able to achieve everything we would like to without your help e.g. the walk to the bluebell woods. We will need extra hands on such occasions but help during the sessions is always appreciated. Additionally, if whilst waiting to collect your child you see any trikes, balls, equipment etc still out, we would be very grateful if you would help by collecting up such items and taking them to the side of the main building. Thank you!

Also, if you can play any instruments and would be willing to accompany our music sessions occasionally, we would love to hear from you.

We know the children enjoy woodwork - yes, hammers, nails and odd pieces of wood can be turned into houses, vehicles and all manner of things! To run this activity, we do need support and if any dads, grandads - or mums and nanas - are able to help please let us know and we will organise one or two mornings in the second half of the term.

And finally

Thank you in advance for your support this term – this half term finishes on Friday 24th May and the summer term ends on Thursday 18th July for those children staying with us in September and ends with the leavers party on Friday 19th July for those leaving us at the end of the term to go to school.

With best wishes

Katy and the Woodlands Team

Dates for your diary

The children will be having more input into the themes and topics we cover this term so we have chosen to look at Oceans for the first few weeks back.

Week 1 w/c Wednesday 24th April

Sound of the week is 'm'

Week 2 w/c Monday 29th April

Topic is Oceans, we will be recapping sounds s, a, t, p, i, n

Wed 1st, Thurs 2nd & Friday 3rd May - Bluebell Walks (see lists in foyer)

Please note these may be moved to Week 3 if the weather is too wet or the bluebells have not bloomed (unlikely!)

Week 3 w/c Tuesday 7th May (Monday is a bank Holiday)

Topic is Oceans, we will be recapping sounds d, h, r, e, m,

Friday 10th May Rugby Tots with coach Tom

Week 4 w/c Monday 13th May

Sound of the week is 'g'

Tuesday 14th May Yoga with Jo

Week 5 w/c Monday 20th May

Sound of the week is 'g'

Wednesday 22nd Mini Moves

Friday 24th Woodlands closes for Half Term Holiday

Second Half Term

Monday 3rd June INSET Day and committee organised outing

Tuesday 4th June Woodlands re-opens for second half of Summer Term.

Friday 14th June ...Family Disco on the Common 7pm – 9pm

Saturday 15th June...Downley Day on the Common

Tuesday 18th June.... Group photo session

Friday 5th July.... Rugby Tots with coach Tom

Wednesday 10th July.....Mini Moves

Wednesday 17th July....Last regular session at Woodlands

Thursday 18th July...Sports Day on Downley Common 10.30am - 12.00pm

Friday 19th July.....Leaver's party for children starting school in September