



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 2024

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the children and parents who were with us last year, and a very warm welcome to our new starters. We hope that you and your family have had a good Christmas holiday and managed to have some quality family time. Thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards – the chocolates and biscuits will keep us going for 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 email Karen at admin@thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk. These days it can be difficult to chat to you in person but you can try to speak to someone 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.

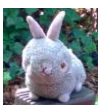
We are looking forward to the new term and during the first few weeks we will be gently introducing the children to our routines and thinking about how we enjoyed the Christmas break. The themes for this half term are Winter and Dinosaurs with Under the Sea and Recycling after half term. As always, we 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.

Keyperson

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 keyperson or Katy or Natalie. If you have any concerns that your child may need additional support you can ask to speak to our SENco Bea Frost.

Structure of the Morning

This is our first term of offering morning sessions to 2-year-olds and to meet the needs of all the children we are changing the structure of the morning slightly. This term all children will hang their coats up in Beechnut room and then children who are under 3 will be encouraged to stay and play in Beechnut Room where there will be more mat based play activities geared towards their developmental stage and interests. Children who are already 3 (or who are very nearly 3) will be encouraged to play in Acorn Room, where the activities will be more table based. Just before 10 am all children will be encouraged to help with tidying up then will wash their hands for snack time. The younger children will be in Beechnut Room to have their snack followed by a short Group/Circle time of short stories or singing. The older children will have snack in Acorn Room followed by a longer Group/Circle time either in Acorn Room or our Language Shed. The Language Shed will be used for the older children's weekly Animal Group time with their key worker and will include activities such as group discussions, answering questions about longer stories, and activities with maths or language focus. As some children have changed key worker and animal groups here is a reminder



Mondays – Owl group with Natalie and Lisa

Tuesdays - Hedgehog group with Katy and Gemma

Wednesdays – Rabbit group with Bea and Shayle

Thursdays – Badger group with Fran and Sarah



All children will then play outside together until the end of the morning session. Children over 2 ½ who stay for some or all of the afternoon will continue to spend their afternoon in Acorn Room.

Parent/Staff Evening

Our “parent evenings” are an opportunity for you to meet staff to discuss your child’s progress and will be on Thursday 14th March for Owls and Rabbits and Thursday 21st March for Hedgehogs and Badgers. 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.

Breakfast and Lunch Club

Breakfast club runs Monday to Friday from 8am-9am. The cost is £8, and breakfast is supplied. There are currently spaces 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 nuts or nut products e.g., peanut butter, pesto or Nutella as we have a child with a nut allergy. We also ask you not to send sweets or bars of chocolate such as mars bars as we try to encourage healthy eating. 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 so children **must** bring a suitable coat to Woodlands as we do not keep spares and we would like all children to have the opportunity to learn outdoors. **Some of the children have complained of being cold so please ensure your child is dressed in layers that can be taken off or put back on as necessary.** Please also send your child in wearing clothes that enable them to access the toilet quickly, some of the children have had accidents due to clothing being too tight or not easy to pull up and down independently. Please remember to send in a pair of wellies that can stay at preschool if you haven’t done so already. Hats and gloves are also important – **please name everything!** we are spending so much time searching for un-named sets of hats, scarves and gloves when we should be spending time with the children.



Please remember to send in spare clothing even for toilet trained children. We often do “messy play” and aprons don’t always manage to catch all spills, they are also tabard style aprons and don’t have sleeves and children often forget to push their sleeves up when washing hands and playing in the water. Nobody likes a soggy sleeve and a spare jumper is advisable. There is also a stock of second-hand uniform so please let Karen know if you would like anything - 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 their 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 Commonside & Littleworth Road. Do not park on the main road outside the hut, across driveways or anywhere that means your child leaves the car on the drivers’ side of the road. The corner of Commonside with Littleworth Road is potentially dangerous so please park a little further away.

Please try to collect your child at the specified collection times of 12, 12.30, 2.30 or 3.30. We appreciate you occasionally may have appointments to get to and if we are informed of these at the start of the day we will endeavour to have your child ready when you arrive. However, we have several parents regularly turning up 15 or 20 minutes early to collect their child. This causes disruption to the activity the children are doing as a member of staff is required to support the child getting ready to go home. It also reduces the number of staff supervising the remainder of the children and makes our legal duty of maintaining our adult to child ratio more difficult.

Karen Pearson, our administrator, will be at Woodlands on Mondays, Tuesdays 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 1/09/19 – 31/08/20, please make sure you have submitted your application by midnight on **15th January 2024**. You should apply online – details are on the Bucks County Council website.

Illness

We know there have been a lot of germs going round so hope you weren't plagued by illness over the festive period. We'd like to remind you that our policy states that children should not come to preschool if they have a high temperature.

If your child has a very snotty cold or frequent cough, please also keep them at home as there are very few children who are capable of blowing/wiping their noses independently or covering their mouths when they cough, and a high number of staff absences due to illness could affect our opening hours.

If your child has a stomach upset remember to keep them at home for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. Please ring in or email to let us know if your child will not be attending for any reason.

Snow!

Please note that wherever possible Woodlands will endeavour to stay open. There is a copy of Woodlands snow policy available for your information. Should we be unable to open, information about closure will be sent in an email, put on the Bucks County Council website. The Woodland Pre-School website and the Parents Facebook 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 & waterproof gloves are a good idea).

Thank you.

Katy & all the team

Dates for your diary.

Week 1 w/c Monday 8th January 2024

Theme; Welcome back/ Winter



Week 2 w/c Monday 15th January 2024

Theme; Winter

Week 3 w/c Monday 22nd January 2024

Theme; Dinosaurs

Tuesday 23rd January Yoga with Jo from First Yoga
We will also have fire drills this week



Week 4 w/c Monday 29th January 2024

Theme: Dinosaurs

Week 5 w/c Monday 5th February 2024

Theme; Dinosaurs

Wednesday 7th February Dance & Drama with Gemma from Stage Plus



End of first half of the term.

Half - term holiday Monday 12th – Friday 16th February.

Week 6 w/c Monday 19th February 2024

Theme; Under the Sea



Week 7 w/c 26th February 2024

Theme; Under the Sea

Week 8 w/c 4th March 2024

Theme; Under the sea & World Book Day

Monday 4th March – visit to Downley Library

Week 9 w/c 11th March 2024

Theme; Under the Sea

Monday 11th March Dance & Drama with Gemma from Stage Plus

Thursday 14th March Parents evening for Owls and Rabbits

Week 10 w/c 18th March 2024

Theme; Recycling

Tuesday 19th March yoga with Jo from First Yoga

Thursday 21st March Parents evening for Hedgehogs and Badgers



Week 11 w/c 25th March 2024

Theme; Recycling & Easter

Term finishes on Thursday 28th March

