

Term Dates

Term 3 - Wednesday 9th January to Friday 15th February

Term 4 - Monday 23rd February to Friday 5th April

(N.B. Pre-school will finish at 1pm on 5th April)

Summer Term 5 - Commences Wednesday 24th April

Themes and Topics - This term we will be introducing our new year resolution of "Keeping Healthy" and exploring different healthy aspects such as our diet/lunch boxes; exercise; dressing skills/keeping warm; sleeping/bedtime routines; personal/oral hygiene. Please remember to check out our FaceBook page for further details and weekly updates.

Booked Pre-School Sessions (for children aged 2+ years)

Pre-school Spaces are becoming more limited but depending on numbers and/or staffing, it may be possible for your child to attend sessions in addition to those already booked - please check with staff for availability. 'Little Wild Thing' Sessions will begin again in Term 4 - until then Wednesday afternoon sessions will be held at Pre-school.

Also, it may interest you to know that we accept 'Childcare Vouchers' and we are also registered on the Government Tax-Free Childcare scheme. If you would like to find out more about either of these schemes please let me know. You can also apply for 30 hours funding. For more information please check out the following website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Attendance - Although education for under 5's is not statutory, Ofsted are now looking at how managers and staff promote prompt and regular attendance for all children in their setting (The Common Inspection Framework - September 2015). With this in mind, could we please ask that if for any reason your child is going to late or will be absent from any of their booked sessions you let a member of staff know (telephone number below if needed). To comply with these new attendance regulations, staff will be recording and monitoring your child/ren's attendance, so please try not to be late and please ensure your child/ren attend regularly.

Carer and Toddler Group - 'Stay and Play' Drop-In Sessions (for children aged 18+ months) Depending on bookings, these are now available at most of our pre-school sessions. For more information and to book a place please make an appointment to come and see me.

LearningBook - Please remember to log-in to your child's learning journal and keep up to date with what your child has been doing at pre-school. We would also encourage you to add photos and comments from home. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Food Allergies - Could we please remind everyone not to donate and/or supply

foods containing nuts. This includes your child's 'Lunch Box' contents and all Peanut Butter and/or Nutella type spreads. Thank you for your consideration.

Snack Bowl - We have been operating a 'healthy' snack bowl, filled up from your weekly donations, for many years now. Many thanks to those of you who have donated so generously in the past. We are always grateful to receive donations of fresh or dried fruits and vegetables, 'Philadelphia' type cheese spreads, hard cheese, bread sticks, cream crackers, water biscuits, rice cakes, crumpets, malt loaf etc. etc. particularly on your child's special day. If you're not sure please talk to a staff member.

Birthday Board - If you haven't already sent in a baby photo, could we please ask you to send one in as soon as possible especially if your child was born in January, February, March + April.

Bad Weather - Please remember that no matter the weather* we will attempt to remain open but with the majority of staff now living outside of the village this may not be possible. If we do have to close at short notice we will attempt to contact you by telephone so please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details. (*HOWEVER - Please note that it is your responsibility to assess whether or not you consider it safe to travel - Pre-school cannot be held responsible for any accidents to and from Pre-school no matter how caused).

Clothing - We do try to offer outdoor play all through the year, so could I please remind you to make sure that you send your child/ren with appropriate clothing for outdoor (and indoor) play. Our pre-school building has very thin walls with ventilation gaps and thin wall insulation and although we try our best to keep our indoor area as warm as possible, just opening the exit doors can let in a cold draught which takes time to reheat so please make sure children are well dressed and well layered at all times. Outdoor clothing should be warm and waterproof and all clothes should be old, or at least ones which you don't mind coming home with mud, glue, paint etc on! Welly boots can be useful too, especially if it's wet and/or muddy underfoot.

Staff would also appreciate mitten style gloves rather than ones with individual fingers as these can take an age to put on and when you have up to 32 hands to do can be very time consuming! Staff also spend a lot of time matching clothes to children so if you could label your children's clothes that would also be very useful - Initials written in biro on clothes labels are quite adequate.

Spare Clothes - Could we please ask you to check your wardrobes for any pre-school spare clothing that may have been leant to you. Our supplies are getting a bit low, especially for jogging type trousers suitable for 3 -4 year olds and girls knickers, so if you do have any we would really appreciate you donating them to us.

Head Lice - Although no incidents were reported last term I thought it best to remind everyone that they should check their children's hair regularly and make

sure that any outbreaks are treated immediately. Information on Head Lice and other childhood illnesses is available in our 'Health Folder' or you can consult your local pharmacist and/or doctor. It is VERY important that we ALL monitor our hair and wet comb it at least every 2-3 days to keep head lice at bay.

Entry/Exit Procedures - Please remember that during school hours you should not access the pre-school premises via the school playground and when collecting your child please make sure that you do not lean over the gate/fence/wall to get the attention of, and/or make contact with, children in the school playground as some of the school children can find this upsetting. Both entry and exit, to and from pre-school, will be via the top 'garden' gate and pre-school garden. At the beginning of the morning session, please wait at the top gate for a member of staff to let you in and take the register. Children will be able to access both indoor and outdoor play and so can either be brought down into the pre-school building or handed over to a member of the outdoor staff. Families arriving at 12 noon and/or 1pm should enter the garden and wait under the outdoor shelter area until admitted by a staff member. All children being collected at 12noon, 1pm and/or 3pm should be collected from the 'garden' door under the shelter.

Parking on and around the school site - Enstone's community police officer PC Chris Jones undertook a monitoring exercise a few years ago, looking at the way cars were parked during school drop off time. As well as showing consideration towards pedestrians, how and where you park and of course other road users he advised the following with regard to safe practice

It is an offence to cause obstruction of a public road. One offence deals with the unnecessary obstruction of a road by a motor vehicle, while another deals with willful obstruction of the highway. By parking on the Lidstone Road you are forcing traffic onto the wrong side of the carriageway into vehicles turning off Cox's Lane. PLEASE USE THE PARKING AREA NEAR THE SCHOOL HALL, THE LAYBY ON LIDSTONE ROAD OR FURTHER UP COX'S LANE. PARKING TOO CLOSE TO A ROAD JUNCTION AND CAUSING AN OBSTRUCTION IS AN OFFENCE. VEHICLES MUST NOT PARK ANY CLOSER THAN 10 METERS TO A JUNCTION. Please have more consideration for other road users. PCSO Chris Jones (Woodstock Police Station)

Drop-off time is a very busy time with lots of vehicles trying to park in a very limited space. Why not make it a New Year Resolution that you will walk to pre-school whenever possible?

If you do have to come by car, please remember to consider others and take extra care around the school site, especially as there are always a lot of young children about.

Safeguarding Issues - Could we please remind you that any medication or creams (including sun cream) should not be accessible to children. If you do

have to bring these products to pre-school please hand them to a member of staff who can put them up safely out of the way. This also applies to any mobile phones, cameras or video recording devices. Due to legislation, you may not use your mobile phone and/or take any photographs whilst on the pre-school premises unless authorised to do so by a member of staff. All photographs must be taken on the pre-school camera/learningbook tablets. If you are spending time at pre-school (other than dropping off and/or collecting) personal possessions must be hung up out of the way on the adult coat pegs. Mobile phones and/or cameras should be handed to a member of staff for safe keeping in the designated storage box. Full details of all our 'Safeguarding and Welfare' Policies and Procedures can be seen at pre-school - please ask a member of staff.

School Admissions - A reminder to all parents/carers of children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015 that you will need to make an application for a school place by 15th January 2019. You can apply online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions.

Early Years Pupil Premium - Did you know that if you are in receipt of certain benefits, we may be entitled to claim additional funding for your child - money that we could use to support and enrich your child's learning and development. If you think you might qualify, please ensure you complete the relevant section on your termly nursery grant claim form.

Staff Team - It is with much sadness I have to advise you that Marlena will be leaving us to start a new career closer to home. Her last day will be on Friday 18th January 2019 and I know we are all going to miss her very much.

And Finally..... the staff and I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and send our best wishes for a happy, healthy, peaceful and successful new year.
Diane Wearing Supervisor

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