

# THE WINDMILL PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**BOLFORD STREET HALL, BOLFORD STREET, THAXTED, CM6 2PY**

**Tel: 01371 831457 (hall phone number)**

We are available to answer this phone 30 minutes before and after session times

**Mobile: 0777 3066495 (Karen)**

**email: windmill\_preschool@yahoo.co.uk**

**www.thewindmillpreschool.co.uk**

**facebook: The Windmill Preschool, Thaxted**



**Tuesday 5 September to Friday 20 October 2017 - Autumn Half Term**

**Welcome to The Windmill Preschool, we hope you and your child enjoys the next year with us**

If you are new starters to the preschool we have a few bits of admin to sort out:

- Please ensure you return all the completed information as requested in your welcome pack together with your child's birth certificate;
- *If you are paying fees your invoice will either be attached to this newsletter, or you will receive it shortly - please speak to Jo if you have any queries;*
- If you already receive funding for your child's hours please see Jo to sign your form;
- *Look out for your child's key person to say hello. Many thanks.*

### **Some general information for you to be aware of:**

- We go outside regularly so please consider the weather - sun hats need to be named and left in the hat box (not in bags please). Also please apply sun-cream before arriving at pre-school (please tell us if you do NOT want us to use our sun-cream).
- *Footwear should be appropriate for outdoor play (no crocs or flip-flops) and please send in a coat if necessary.*
- If your child likes to use a comforter (blanket/cloth/toy) then please bring it to preschool, however, we would suggest no other toys, as they are so easily mislaid.
- *We do not allow children to use dummies during preschool hours.*
- If your child is staying until 2.00pm please bring in wellies during wet weather as we usually go out to the field/Windmill after lunch. The wellies should be left in a named bag UNDER the lunch bag table.
- If you have any queries about packed lunches please speak to staff or see the guidelines on the notice board, but please remember lunches must be nut-free (eg no Nutella or peanut butter).
- *If you are going to be late or absent we would appreciate a quick phone call or text. If your child is ill please also let us know, especially if they have an infection/contagious disease.*
- Please remember to send in spare clothes/nappies/wipes in a named bag. We do have our own supply of spare clothes – if your child is sent home in these please wash and return asap, thanks.
- *We have a supply of the following: polo shirts (£8.50) and sweatshirts (£9.50). All in stock with the Windmill logo on. These are in navy or red and are useful to avoid own clothes getting messed up.*

Please fill in the **COLLECTION BOOK** (on the table inside the hall) if your child is being collected by another authorised adult - over 16's only please.

[It is very important that you let us know if your CONTACT DETAILS change, especially all phone and mobile numbers.](#)

You will soon be hearing from our new Committee chair – Kath Shanks – Dexter's mum. Our preschool is managed by a volunteer committee of Parents and we cannot actually operate without them - they look after all the important admin, employ us, pay wages, organise events and outings, raise funds for new equipment and toys etc. It is therefore really important that we help support the committee and any events they organise so please keep an eye on the notice board or any newsletters from them. We would love you to join our committee - it is very rewarding and fun – or if you can't commit to that, then please support our committee events by providing a cake/tombola item etc.

*You can always speak to a member of staff, or your child's keyworker, if you have a question or a problem, to update your child's progress, or to see your child's Learning Journey.  
Many thanks from all the Staff – Karen, Jo, Liz, Rachel, Peta, Louise & Claire.*

### Term Dates for 2017 & 2018

Tuesday 5 September – Friday 20 October (7 weeks) - Autumn  
Monday 30 October – Friday 15 December (7 weeks) - Christmas  
Monday 8 January – Friday 9 February (5 weeks) - Winter  
Monday 19 February – Thursday 29 March (6 weeks) - Easter  
Monday 16 April – Friday 25 May (6 weeks) – Spring  
Monday 7 May – Bank Holiday  
Monday 4 June – Friday 20 July (7 weeks) - Summer

### Activities this term

This half-term we will be concentrating on getting to know your child and helping them to settle in. We aim to tailor activities to suit your child's needs and abilities and to find things that they enjoy doing. You can help us by letting us know as much as possible about your child and their interests. We find that children learn quickly and enjoy pre-school when they are doing things that interest them and your keyworker will be asking for your help to fill in "All About Me".

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which promotes learning in 7 areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We aim to do this through the many activities on offer, with a balance of adult-led time and child-led play, both indoors and out. Throughout the year we may follow different themes, such as Birds, Mini-Beasts, Jobs and Professions, Transport – and in addition will look at various festivals and celebrations – Christmas, Chinese New Year, Easter, Mother's Day etc. We have mentioned some activities below so you can continue learning outside of preschool. If you would like to borrow any of our activities or resources just ask – we are more than happy for you to do that, or if you have any questions about the activities, please ask.

	Specific activities each week, in addition to regular activities:
Week 1	General settling in week and getting used to the routine.
Week 2	Shape matching and naming activities ...look out for different shapes in your home.
Week 3	Number and counting activities ... try spotting numbers in the supermarket or on doors.
Week 4	Colour matching activities ... chat about colours of clothes as your child gets dressed.
Week 5	Letter and alphabet games ... regularly reading and sharing books is the best start you can give your child.
Week 6	Threading/fine motor control activities.
Week 7	Investigating the "science" box.

### **OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP.....**

- Items from home your child would like to show at circle time.
- Anything that is relevant to our theme – books or photographs.
- Empty CEREAL BOXES for our collage table, or spare paper.
- Once your child has settled in (we usually recommend after a few terms), you can stay at preschool if you choose. This could be for the whole session, or just for a short while. This gives you a chance to see what your child gets up to at preschool, we can chat about their progress or any concerns you have and you can help us out with a bit of washing up! We are always looking out for reading helpers, even for half an hour, so that would be useful too. If you would like to stay just mention it to the staff person on the door.
- If your child is learning to use a potty please feel free to send it in if they prefer to use it (in a named plastic bag).
- you will hopefully be aware of our policies but would like to highlight an important one relating to sickness – please note that children should not return to pre-school until 48 hours after a sickness bug – this is not only for their benefit but also ensures it is not passed on. Our full set of policies are on the table in a grey folder and they can be downloaded from our website.
- Our OFSTED details are always available if you need to see them.