

**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**



**Monday 30 October to Friday 15 December 2017 - Autumn Half Term**

**Welcome back to the next busy half-term.**

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

- Your child will need to bring a coat in everyday and footwear should be appropriate for outdoor play.
- 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 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.

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.

**Debbie from Crazy Ceramics will be here Monday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November.**

**An information sheet/order form is attached to this newsletter.**

**We need your order forms and money on those mornings if your child is making something.**

You will have seen on the Committee Newsletter that our next fund-raising event is the Christmas Bazaar on Sunday 3 December, from 2 to 4pm. We will have a range of stalls – tombola, cakes, children's games and activities, cakes and refreshments, Santa will also be here for the children to visit.

**More than ever before we need your help – and really hope you will show your support by coming to the Bazaar.**



**Our last day before Christmas is Friday 15 December – this will also be our Christmas Party.**

**All children are invited to attend (no extra cost) – but please note that the party will end at 1.00pm. You will receive more information nearer the time.**

*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, Rachel, Peta, Louise & Claire.*

Just a note about Liz – no doubt you are all aware that Liz left pre-school during last half-term. We were really sorry to see her go, she had been with us since 2008, but she felt the time was right. Liz was also the Deputy Manager and we are pleased to inform you that this role has now been taken up by Claire.

Term Dates for 2017 & 2018

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

We have lots of celebrations and cultural events to chat about this half-term – Halloween, Bonfire Night and of course the big one – Christmas – expect lots of glitter !! This is a good time to explore our senses as well – hearing and seeing the fireworks ... feeling the cold of Autumn ... new tastes at Christmas time.

	<b>Specific activities each week, in addition to regular activities:</b>
Week 1	Decorating pumpkin cut-outs and hammering nails into real pumpkins (good for hand to eye co-ordination, but also really fun!) Looking for different shapes in the environment
Week 2	Creating firework pictures Examining all the different colours of the fireworks <b>Debbie from Crazy Ceramics here Monday and Tuesday</b>
Week 3	Making poppies for Remembrance Sunday
Week 4	Starting to make our crafts for the Christmas Fayre
Week 5	Continuing with activities for the <b>Christmas Fayre on Sunday 3 Dec, 2 to 4pm</b>
Week 6	Now it is December we can start with our Christmas songs and themed activities ... ☺
Week 7	Christmas creating ... ie glitter <b>Christmas party last day Friday 15 Dec, 9am to 1pm for all children.</b>

**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.