

# 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

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[www.thewindmillpreschool.co.uk](http://www.thewindmillpreschool.co.uk)



Monday 8 January to Friday 9 February 2018 - Winter Half Term

**Happy New Year** to you all and we hope you had a great Christmas.

A big WELCOME to our new families. We hope you all enjoy your time with us.

Below is some general information for you to be aware of:

- If it snows and we have to close preschool you will be advised by phone on the morning. Keep an eye on our Facebook page too for updates.
- *Your child will need to bring a coat everyday as we use the outdoor play area daily.*
- Footwear should also be appropriate for outdoor play.
- *If your child is staying until 2.00pm they will need to bring wellies, as we go to the field or Windmill before lunch. Wellies should be put in a named bag and left under the lunch tables. You can help us by encouraging your child to take off and put their own shoes on – a useful self-help skill - to help us and prepare them for school.*
- Thank you for hanging bags on the top pegs and coats on the bottom pegs.
- *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 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 please phone 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.

Before Christmas we had 2 donations, the first from Uttlesford District Council, for £300, and the second for £200 from one of our families

(we won't say your name, but you know who you are, and the committee know too!!)

We are obviously thrilled with this, and the donations have helped ease our financial restraints somewhat.

Once again we are thrilled with the outcome of the Christmas Bazaar, which raised £1,061.34. Everyone worked so hard to prepare and set up - we would like to thank all the committee, and indeed everyone who came, helped or donated to the bazaar.

Not forgetting a big thank you to Santa!

The children (and us) really enjoyed our end of term christmas party, entertained by Timmy Tickle, and with lots of lovely party food which you all kindly donated.

*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. PTO ...*

### Term Dates for 2018:

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

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.

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.

### WHAT WE ARE DOING OVER THE NEXT 5 WEEKS:

Week 1	Shape recognition activities. You can spot shapes everywhere with your child – as you travel around look out for squares, rectangles, circles etc.
Week 2	Colour recognition activities. Playing colour naming games as your child gets dressed helps to reinforce colour names.
Week 3	Number recognition/counting activities. Number activities can be incorporated into everyday life so easily, even singing songs such as “1, 2, 3, 4, 5, once I caught a fish alive”.
Week 4	Alphabet/letter sounds activities. Reading regularly with your child is one of the most important things you can do to help stimulate learning. We will be playing listening games and games involving hidden sounds to learn about “hearing”.
Week 5	Weighing/measuring/sorting activities. Basic concepts such as small and big, short and tall

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

- Bring in 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 you wait 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. They can also be downloaded from our website.
- Our OFSTED details are available if you need to see them.