

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



Monday 19 February to Thursday 29 March 2018 - Easter Half Term

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 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.*
- *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.
- Please fill in the Collection Book if your child is being collected by another authorised adult (over 16's only please)
- It is imperative that you let us know if your **contact details change** – phone numbers, or phone numbers of your other emergency contacts too.

The committee are currently planning a fund-raising event:

Treasure Hunt – Sunday 25 March, from 2.00pm, more details to follow.

Our Annual General Meeting is booked for Tuesday 20 March, in Bolford St Hall, at 8.15pm.

Please show your support for your preschool, and if you are thinking about becoming a Committee Member (and we do need you!), then this is your opportunity to come and find out how the preschool is run.

The staff would like to thank all the committee members who have been running and making the preschool work for all of us. We are so grateful to Kath, our chairperson, who is staying on, despite not having any children currently at preschool.

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 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

WHAT WE ARE DOING OVER THE NEXT 6 WEEKS:

With all the recent news about recycling, particularly plastic use, we thought we would try and incorporate recycling into everyday use for our children. If any of you would like to stop using plastic water bottles for your child's lunch, then we are more than happy to provide drinking water.

Week 1	Chinese New Year was during the half-term holiday, but we will still celebrate this week as it is one of our favourite festivals. It's great fun trying to eat noodles with chopsticks. We shall be making Chinese lanterns and listening to music. Also fine motor control activities.
Week 2	World Book Day is on Thursday - your voucher for a free book is attached. Alphabet recognition activities and activities to learn about letter sounds, and phonic sounds for our older children. We will be spending lots of time reading with the children - please feel free to come in to help out with a bit of reading with the children. Children can dress up as their favourite book or TV character this week, and please send in their favourite book too.
Week 3	Activities relating to Mothering Sunday (11 March) – We would love to see some photos of you with your children to share at circle time, the children love seeing photos of grown-ups as babies.
Week 4	Exploring the science box and ICT activities.
Week 5	Number and counting activities ... try spotting numbers in the supermarket or on doors whilst you are out. Annual General Meeting Tuesday 20 March 8.15pm Treasure Hunt is on Sunday 25 March, starting at 2.00pm
Week 6	Easter activities and our favourite Easter Egg song. Colour matching & mixing activities

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.