

The Windmill Pre-School

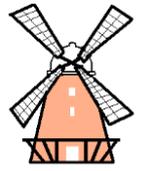
BOLFORD STREET HALL, BOLFORD STREET, THAXTED, CM6 2PY

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 4 June to Friday 20 July 2018 – 7 week Summer Half Term

- Sun hats need to be named and left in the hat-box on the table (please do not leave in bags). We sell legionnaire style caps for £2.
- Please apply sun-cream before arriving at pre-school. We do not routinely put sun-cream on children - only if we are out for an extended period of time and if we think certain children need it. We use Calypso Sun-Cream factor 20. We will only use your sun-cream if you have told us that your child has an allergy or our cream is unsuitable for other reasons.
- Consider your child's footwear – flip-flops, crocs and some sandals are not suitable for preschool activities. Most sandals are fine if they are securely strapped.
- We will be helping out at the Open Farm Sunday, on Sunday 10th June. We had a lovely time last year helping with all the craft activities. We know the families that went last year had a great time, and this year's event is promising to be bigger and better!
- Our annual summer outing this year is to Daisy May's Farm on Wednesday 13 June. Don't forget to return your reply slip, even if you can't come. Please note that pre-school is closed on this day.
- The next big event, organised by the Committee, is the **Car Boot Sale** on Sunday 8 July. You will soon be receiving more information from the committee, together with booking information, if you would like to book a pitch.
- You will have heard lots in the media about Data Protection, and we too have been having a sort out, and attached is our new Privacy Policy. There is also a new Data Protection Policy (on the website and in the policy folder).

Staff Updates

You are all aware that I (Karen) am leaving preschool at the end of the summer term. We are thrilled to let you know that we have a replacement – Emma Edwards – who will be starting as Manager in September. Emma has previous experience in managing nurseries, and more recently has been working as a tutor delivering early years courses - you may have seen her tutoring Claire with her Level 3. Together Emma and Claire will be a fantastic team, with Claire being the Deputy Manager. We all wish her good luck and I hope she enjoys it as much as I have.

Some of you may have heard that Jo is leaving at the end of the summer term too, and I can confirm that sadly it is true. What can I say about Jo that you don't already know yourselves? She's just fantastic, not just a brilliant person to work with, but a true friend, one of the nicest people I know. Of all the many things I will miss about preschool, not seeing Jo is one of the biggest losses. However, I know how tired Jo is, and you may not realise she has been working hard at the Windmill Preschool since 1999, almost 20 years. I doubt she will be having much of a rest when she leaves, but hopefully whatever she does will make her life a bit easier! Please join me, and the other ladies, in thanking Jo for her years of dedication, expertise, unfailing good humour ... and patience ☺

You will still be seeing lots of familiar faces in September – Rachel, Peta, Louise and Claire – who remain dedicated and amazing as ever. Sadly it hasn't quite worked out for Kendall, who we recently employed, and for personal reasons she will not be staying with us after July. You will therefore be soon seeing an advert for a new assistant. It's a tricky industry to be in at the moment, with the government pushing for a highly educated workforce (as it should be) but this is generally not reflected in wages, most of us do this job because we love being with children and want school holidays off with our own children, not because of the pay! The industry also reports a nationwide shortage in the workforce. Sadly Debden Preschool closed this week because of staff issues ... we are so thankful to have found our new manager, Emma.

**TERM DATES
2018/2019**

Monday 4 June 2018 to Friday 20 July 2018 – 7 week Summer Half Term
Wednesday 13 June (preschool closed) - Summer Outing to Daisy May's Farm

Wednesday 5 September 2018 to Friday 19 October 2018 – 7 week Autumn Half Term
Monday 29 October 2018 to Friday 14 December 2018 – 7 week Xmas Half Term

Monday 14 January 2019 to Friday 15 February 2019 – 5 week Winter Half Term
Monday 25 February 2019 to Friday 5 April 2109 – 6 week Easter Half Term
Tuesday 23 April 2019 to Friday 24 May 2019 – 5 week Spring Half Term
Monday 3 June 2019 to Wednesday 24 July 2019 – 8 week Summer Half Term

You may have spotted the very long Christmas Holiday – 4 weeks – this is because of the late Easter Holiday in 2019, preschool is open for 38 weeks per year and we are governed by the dates given to us by Essex County Council.

Our rising 5's have already had transition information for primary school,
and if you have any questions please ask.
Don't forget that we are closing early (12 noon) on Monday 2 July for our trip
to primary school, so some children will need picking up early.

This is our last newsletter to you for this academic year
(and my last ever newsletter!).
For those children who are leaving for 'big' school we've had a
great time with them and hope we've given them a great
start on their educational journey.
We wish them all the best at their new primary school.

Please note you can always speak to a member of staff, or your child's
key-person 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