

*"Where learning is Fun"*

# Woodentops Preschool

Feb 2017

## Welcome

We would like to say a very big Woodentops welcome to Danny. We hope your Mum and Dad like their little welcome bag.

### Fees

The invoices were sent on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb via email, please contact Jackie if you have not received it. Payments are due at the end of February. If payments are not received, you are at risk of losing your child's place at Woodentops. Arrangements can be made for a payment system if required.

### School Visits

Next half term we are visiting Potton Lower School on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and Sutton Lower on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. We will leave Woodentops at 1.15pm, using Jackie's and Karen's cars to transport the children. The children will join the reception class activities for the afternoon and then parents/carers can pick up from Potton Lower at 3.15pm in the front playground and Sutton Lower at 3pm in their front car park.

### Children's Clothing at Woodentops

Please would all parents name their children's clothing including their shoes. With the cold weather, the children need to have mittens (easier for the children to put them on themselves), hats and scarves with warm coats. I am hoping for lovely snowy weather and can't wait for us to be able to play outside in the snow.

### Policies

We are revising our policies at the monthly staff meetings. The current and revised policies are in the red folder on the front desk. They are also on the website.

### Phonics Fun

We are practising our phonics using the 'Jolly Phonics' songs. The children are loving the songs and actions. You can get a free app here - <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/jolly-phonics-lessons/id1149029299?mt=8>

### Stay and Play

We are continuing with our Stay and Play sessions on Friday mornings from 9.30 to 11am. The cost is **£3 per family or carer**, the children get to take part in our usual activities including having a snack and the adults get to have a hot drink. Please tell your friends. The children in preschool really like helping the 'stay and players' and showing them what fun we have.

### Mobile Phones and Photos

Just a reminder **NOT** to use your mobile phones or take photos whilst at preschool. If you do need to take a call, please go out of the main room and take it in the middle room away from the children. We do not allow any photos to be taken on our premises, this is to protect our children and yourselves.

### Talking to staff

Please remember to talk to staff regarding preschool business at preschool. Out of school they are trying to be 'ordinary' mums/people.

## Home Bags

We have 7 home bags for children to choose from. Children can have them for a week or the weekend. We continue to encourage the children to choose a book to take home in a book bag as well. When you do have the books and home school bags please note what your child did with them and whether they enjoyed it in their diaries, also give us suggestions of what we could do to improve them.

## Lunches

As part of the children's preparation for school we would prefer children not to have sweets or chocolate in their lunch boxes. At school, they will have them removed so we want to prepare them and prevent the pain of having a favourite item removed. The British Nutrition society has developed some useful information regarding sizes of children's portions. The '5532 a day' is the new strapline for what food to provide for children. It's 5 fruit/veg, 5 portions of starchy food such as bread, rice or pasta, 3 dairy products and 2 portions of protein. I have printed the below information off and it will be on the table in the foyer at Preschool.

<https://www.nutrition.org.uk/healthyliving/lifestages/feeding-your-toddlerpre-school-child.html>

## Opening Times

Woodentops usual hours of handover are 9am, 12pm, 1pm and 3.45pm. We do different hours if a parent requests and if we can accommodate their child. Please do not think we are being awkward or rude for not letting you in if you arrive early, we must ensure the building is safe for the children prior to them arriving. Our insurance also covers us for the hours you have indicated you require.

## Front Gates

Please make sure you shut both gates when going in and out of Woodentops. The large gate is a little stiff, so may need a good push or shove and the lock should be slid across. This is to keep all our children safe going in and out of Woodentops.

### Woody and Oaky Bears

Woody and Oaky are so excited to come home with the children, they like going on weekends away, holidays and seeing what each of you do at home.

## Important Dates

13<sup>th</sup> Feb- half term  
20<sup>th</sup> Feb-return to preschool and Jodie with Dance  
23<sup>rd</sup> Feb- Simon visiting  
27<sup>th</sup> Feb-Jodie visiting  
28<sup>th</sup> Feb- Simon visiting  
1<sup>st</sup> March-Visit to Potton lower school  
6<sup>th</sup> March- Jodie Visiting  
9<sup>th</sup> March-Simon Visiting  
13<sup>th</sup> March- Jodie Visiting  
14<sup>th</sup> March- Simon Visiting  
20<sup>th</sup> March- Jodie Visiting  
23<sup>rd</sup> March- Simon Visiting  
27<sup>th</sup> March- Jodie Visiting  
28<sup>th</sup> March- Simon Visiting  
22<sup>nd</sup> March- visit to Sutton Lower school  
31<sup>st</sup> March- Easter party, 11 to 1pm, we have Ark Farm coming at 11am.  
18<sup>th</sup> April- Return to preschool

### Lift off to Language

Karen is continuing her groups this half term. Karen works with 4 children for 6 weeks, developing and extending their communication skills doing short activities and songs.

### Library

Half Term- Activities focused around 'Where's Wally'

### Any Questions

If you have any comments or concerns please speak to a manager- Jackie, Karen or Sue H.

Thank you