

*"Where learning is Fun"*

# Woodentops Preschool

Jan 2017

## Welcome

We would like to say a very big Woodentops welcome to Theo W, Jake D, Jacob F and Belle. We hope the Mums and Dads like their little welcome bag.

### School Visits

This half term we are visiting Potton Lower School on the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 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.

### 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.

### 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 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.

### Jolly Phonics

We are restarting the phonic songs this term, the children really enjoy them especially the actions.

### Home Bags

The home school bags are now ready to take home. Children can have them for a week or the weekend. Children will be given the choice as to what bag they would like to borrow. 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.

### **Our Snails**

We have two snails at Woodentops- Herbie and Sparkle. They are African Land snails and really enjoy visiting children at home. They are pretty easy to look after and come contained in their tank with some water in a spray bottle. They like to have a little spray every day. Both of them enjoy eating apples, cucumber, lettuce and celery. They really do not like any acidic food such as oranges or lemons- it can make them very poorly.

### **Christmas**

We all hope you and your children had a lovely Christmas and New year.

At the carol concert, we raised £100 from the raffle. This money helped pay for the Christmas party and having Safari Stu show us his animals.

Our Christmas party was fabulous, Safari Stu was very impressed with our children and how interested they were in the animals. He commented on how well the children listened to his instructions when handling the animals.

### **Activities at Woodentops**

**Triumph Wellbeing-** Simon is continuing with his Team Games sessions and is doing them on alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is so that we can get as many of the children who attend Woodentops to take part in this activity. The children love it and Simon is always very bouncy and full of energy.

**Jodie's dance sessions-** These continue on Monday mornings. Again the children gain so much from these sessions, they often practise the 'splish, splash, splosh' song throughout the week.

**Cooking-** We will be doing cooking each week on alternate Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays so that each child gets a chance to cook.

### **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.

### **Important Dates**

**4<sup>th</sup> Jan-** Preschool returns

**18<sup>th</sup> Jan-** visit to Potton Lower School

**13<sup>th</sup> Feb-** half term

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb-** return to preschool

**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 restarting 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**

28/1/2017- celebrate Chinese New Year at the library, 10 am to 1pm

#### **Any Questions**

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

Thank you

#### **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.