



NEWSLETTER

January 2016

Welcome to the New Year.

We hope you all have had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. We are really enjoying the children telling us about what they did over the holidays.

Thank you so much for all your lovely gifts we all enjoyed eating them over the holidays.

School Applications

Just to remind you all that the school application closure date is 15 January 2016

18 April 2016 National Offer Day for on time applications. Decision letters will be posted out via 2nd class post and those applied online and requested email notification will receive an email with their application decision

School visits

We have 2 school visits booked for this term to Sutton (3/2/16) and Potton Lower (24/2/16)

We take the children to school in either Jackie's or Mandy's cars or a Taxi. All have business insurance to cover transporting children. For Sutton School we take and bring them back to Woodentops, so usual pick up from Woodentops. For Potton Lower we ask parents to meet us there at 3.20pm. We ask parents to provide us with car seats, we do have 3 high backed car seats and some Britax 5 point car seats but would prefer to use the children's own car seats.

Activity Sessions

We have organised 2 different types of weekly activities for the children.

On Mondays, Jodie will be coming in at 10.30 to do a dance session with the children, It's a great way for them to learn about the beat of the music and moving their bodies in time plus also doing different actions as Jodie adds in some ballet moves too.

On Thursdays we have Simon from Triumph Wellbeing coming in to do a mixture of ball and sporty sessions which also include games with colours, shapes and team building.

Dates for this year

5th Jan -Back to school

15th Jan- Staff meeting

20th Jan- Letters and Sounds training for all staff

26th Jan- Open morning

3rd Feb- Visit to Sutton Lower school

5th Feb- Ark farm visiting

15-19th Feb-Half term

24th Feb- Potton Lower school visit

2nd March- Sue, Danielle and Mandy on training

3rd March- World Book Day

8th March- Staff training

9th March- Sutton School visit- Cancelled

24th March-Last day of term

11th April-Staff training day

Healthy Under 5's

Jackie has enrolled Woodentops on the Healthy Under 5's award. She attended training in November and got lots of ideas and leaflets. This means we have been reviewing the kind of food we give to the children during snack and our cooking activities. We have started by doing a new photo album of 'healthy' foods to give to the children during snack time which the children can use to choose their snacks for the following week. We are also reviewing what food the children cook for activities too. We are continuing with the cooking on different days each week so that all the children get a chance to cook.

Ark Farm

We have organised Ark Farm to come and visit us on the 5th February. They will do a session that is called 'the indoor experience' The farm brings along a range of small ducks, bantam chickens, guinea pigs, 2 friendly labradors, a pygmy hedgehog, a leopard tortoise and a barn owl. They are also going to do some story telling using puppets at the end of the session. Its from 9.30 till 11.30 and we thought we would open it out to everyone including stay and play parents/carers/childminders and nannies. Cost £2.00 per child over 2yrs.
www.arkfarm.co.uk

Funding for the children

We are able to offer children who are 2 yrs old funding if they fulfill certain criteria. Parents entitled to this funding will receive a letter from Central Beds Council informing if they are entitled and would give them a CPEI number which has to be put on the funding form. All children who are 3 or older are entitled to 15 hours of funded sessions per week of the school term- this term is for 11 weeks. The funding is given to children the term after they are 3 years old. On the all the funding forms we need parents DOB and National Insurance numbers- this is a Government stipulation and if they are not given we may not get the funding for that child.

Woody Bear

We have our travelling bear Woody who has been home to Jackie's over Christmas. He really enjoys coming home with the children and having fun. The children love to tell us and share woody's diary with everyone after his visit home.

Open Morning

We have our first Open Morning of the year on the 26th Jan from 9.30 until 11am. Could all parents share the cards we've provided with any prospective parents.

Play and Stay

We are continuing with our Stay and Play sessions on Monday afternoons. These are from 1.30 until 3pm and cost £2.00 per family/carer attending.