



September 2015

Welcome back to the new school year.

This year we have organised ball skills on Wednesday mornings starting from the 16/9/15 and dance sessions on Friday mornings from 11/9/15. Both of the instructors are CRB'd checked and have the relevant qualifications to teach our children. They will always be supported by Woodentops Staff whilst they are in our setting.

New Children

We would like to wish a warm welcome to all our new children and their parents. We hope you enjoy our preschool.

Please do chat to us if you have any concerns or worries about your child settling.

Please also do not linger, this can make the separation even harder for your child.

Welcome to:- Lily, Kiera, Phoenix, Thomas, Jessica, Zac, Arthur,

Stay and Play

We have decided to open up the Monday afternoon sessions to a stay and play session for children and their parents. This is a brilliant way for younger children to experience playgroup with their parent or carer present and develop friendships with the preschool staff.

These sessions are from 1.30 till 3pm, they cost £2.00 per family. We are hoping to provide a hot drink for adults and a healthy snack with either milk or water for the children. If any of your children have any allergies or sensitivities please do tell us.

Funded Children

Some two year olds and all our 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to the 15 hours of free Early Years education. Those that are entitled have to sign the Central Beds funding forms and include their Date of Birth and National Insurance numbers. Two year olds all have a CPEI number as well, which will have been sent to them from Heather Knox at Central Beds, we run the risk of being paid late or not at all if the forms are not filled in correctly or submitted at the right time.

The 15 hours can be taken between 2 settings, any hours over have to be paid for. Our hourly rate is £4.

Calender

23/9/15- Tempest
photographer in

25/9/15- MacMillan coffee
morning

9/10/15- Staff meeting

14/10/15-Visiting Sutton
Lower School 1.15 -3pm

16/10/15-Quiz night

23/10/15-Half term

2/11/15-Preschool back

2/12/15-Visiting Potton Lower
School 1.15-3.10pm

11/12/15-Nativity play, coffee
and mince pies.

17/12/15-Xmas party & last
day of term.

Clothing

Now we have managed to get past one of our wettest summers, no doubt there will be more rain coming our way!

So we would like all children to have waterproof and warm coats, wellies, hats and gloves for when it gets very cold. We do have spare wellies and intend to spend time outside regardless of the weather as the children gain so much from it.

Those that are in nappies need spare ones please.

All children need spare clothing in their bags as well, just in case of accidents but also as we do a lot of water play. Again we have spare clothing but the children do prefer to wear their own clothing.

Staffing

We adhere to Ofsted's statutory guidance and have 1 member of staff per four 2-3 year olds, and one member of staff to eight 3-4 years. We also have Shannon our apprentice, at the moment she is supernumerary, but will in the near future be included in our ratio's.

Karen and Sue H are our managers and either one of them are always on duty, we have to have a manager in setting all the time. Kathryn has just recently passed her Foundation Degree in Early Years and Danielle has her level 4 management and is our stand in manager if needed. Michelle, Mandy and Sue D are all level 3 qualified practitioners. I (Jackie) have my level 6 and am going to be in Woodentops Monday, Tuesday, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Speech and Language

Lisa Mitchell, the Speech and language lead for Central Beds holds drop in sessions for children under 5 years. If you feel your child has an issue with speech, language and communication you just need to turn up.

6th October 2015- 10-11.30

17th November 2015- 10-11.30

8th December 2015 10-11.30

They are held at the Sandys Children Centre, behind Laburnum School, Sandy

Policies

All our policies are on the website for you to read.

www.woodentops-potton.com

We also have a folder on the table at the front with them all in too. In the diaries you all have a copy of our safeguarding, complaints and illness policies.

Healthy Eating Award

We have applied to join this.

Jackie is going to be the co-ordinator with help from Sue H.

We will get support from the Healthy eating Award team, including training for staff and visits to Woodentops.

Please remember to shut the gates behind you when coming in and out of Woodentops. This is to keep all of our children safe.

We have Ball skills on Wednesday mornings and Dance on Monday mornings.

If your child wants to share anything at Woodentops, please do bring it in.

If you want to bring any fruit or vegetables from home for snack, they would be most welcome.