

*"Where learning is Fun"*

# Woodentops Preschool

**Oct 2016**

## Welcome to our new children

We would like to say a very big Woodentops welcome to Alyssa Ella, Livia and Archie. We hope the parents and carers liked their little welcome bags.

### MacMillan Coffee Morning

We are delighted with how well the coffee morning went. We managed to sell nearly all our cakes, cookies and scones plus made over 80 cups of coffee and tea. We had 12 raffle prizes which went to good homes and raised £230 for the charity- double what we raised last year. Thank you so much to all our bakers, our refreshments team and to those who spent their money on the delicious cakes.

### School Readiness

In preparation for going to school we have organised Sophie Adams, a tutor from Central Beds to come and do a talk about how we can all help your child be ready for school. Sophie will be coming out to us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The session will start at 7pm, She will do a short presentation lasting around 30 to 45 minutes and you'll be able to ask questions from her and staff. This is being held at the Potton Preschool building- Parents from both preschools and local childminders will also be invited.

### RSPB Visits

We have 2 exciting sessions with the RSPB.

Amanda will be visiting with Nicky on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov from 9.15 until 10.45. They will be doing a session about colour changing and exploring outside. Those children that do not usually attend are more than welcome to come with their parents/carers and join in for £3 per child.

We are also visiting the RSPB on the 19<sup>th</sup> Oct, a Wednesday, from 1.30 to 3pm. We intend to have some fun in their den building area and explore the woods. Children will be taken in

Jackie's and Karen's cars- we both have business insurance in order for us to transport the children.

### Stay and Play

We hold stay and play sessions every Monday afternoon from 1.30 to 3pm and Friday morning 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 Woodentops. 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.

## Forest Schools

Kathryn is training to be a Level 3 Forest School Leader. We are going to start Forest School sessions on Friday mornings after we finish the stay and play sessions. We will be visiting the wooded area across the road from us and doing a variety of activities. A high adult to child ratio (3 adults to 6 children) will be maintained and all areas checked prior to us visiting. Following on from this we intend to incorporate Forest School sessions into our older group of children on Wednesday afternoons.

## EYPP and Home Bags

EYPP (Early Years Pupil Premium) is where the government have allocated £302 per year per child who is doing the full 15 hours funded sessions and fulfils certain criteria. It is intended to be used to close the gap between those children whose parents are on benefits and those that are not. Preschool can claim the funding. We have been on training and have been given some Home Bags- Communication, Physical and Literacy; these will be coming home with your children for you to do some activities with them. We have decided that in order to be fair, each child will have the choice of bringing a bag home once a week.

## 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.

## Shannon

Shannon, our apprentice, is coming to the end of her Level 3 Apprenticeship on the 21<sup>st</sup> October. She is moving to Harpers Nursery in Blunham after she did her baby experience with them this summer. We are really pleased for her and think she will do really well as an Early Years practitioner and we want to wish her all the best.

## Any Questions

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

## Important Dates

**5<sup>th</sup> Oct**- Judith from Asda doing a food activity

**6<sup>th</sup> Oct**- Sam from Harpers nursery visiting to do a Forest School session

**19<sup>th</sup> Oct**- Visit to RSPB to do some den building.

**24<sup>th</sup> Oct**- Half Term

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct**- Preschool open

**9<sup>th</sup> Nov**- Potton Lower School visit

**10<sup>th</sup> Nov**-Open Morning

**23<sup>rd</sup> Nov**-Sutton VA School visit

**9<sup>th</sup> Dec**- Carol Concert at 11am

**12<sup>th</sup> Dec**- Reception class performance at Potton Lower.

**14<sup>th</sup> Dec**- last full day of preschool

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec**- Preschool Christmas party from 11am.

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

## 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.