

"Where learning is Fun"

Woodentops Preschool

Sept 2016

Welcome Back

A huge welcome back to all our little ones after the summer holiday break.

We would like to say a very big Woodentops welcome to all our new little ones as well. A big shout out to Max, Alivia, Kasper, Archie, Reece and Harry. We are really proud of how well you have all settled with very minimal tears. We hope the parents and carers liked their little welcome bags.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

We are having a coffee morning on the 23rd Sept 2016 from 9.30 to 11am. The children will be making biscuits and cakes to sell to any one that wants to attend. We would love it if parents could provide some cakes and biscuits to support this fantastic charity. Last year we raised £106, I wonder if we can beat it. Please ask your friends and family to come down too. There will be a raffle with great prizes, tickets are £1 a strip.

Diaries

Each child has a reading and daily diary. These are a really important communication tool between Woodentops staff, parents and carers. We will be noting down what the children do and eat whilst they are in Woodentops. The children will also be choosing books to take home in our Bookbags to share with you. Once you've read them please would you make a note of what the child thought of the book. This is preparing you and your child for when they go to school, as they expect you to note what the child read and add a comment in their reading diary.

School visits

The school visits always happen on a Wednesday afternoon when we have our older pre-schoolers who will be starting school the following September. We take them up to school and at Potton parents meet us at the school at 3.15pm.

At Sutton we take them and bring them back so parents can meet us at Woodentops at the usual time.

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.

Keyworkers

Each of the children have been given a keyworker. The keyworker is the main person to go to, to discuss your child's progress. We have ensured that the keyworker is on duty most of the times your child attends. We are very lucky in that having a small setting the children get to know all the staff very quickly so that if your child's keyworker is not present then they will still have good support from other staff members. Over the next coming weeks your keyworker will introduce themselves to you. Please note some of the children's keyworkers may have changed this term.

Our planning

We have started a new system this term. There will be less writing for staff so that they can have more time to interact with the children so developing their learning and interests further. We will have a white board in the hallway at home time which will have notes on it as to what activity the children did and what their learning was. Each month there will a summary of your child's learning in their file which you will get to read and see the photos too.

Managing behaviour

When at preschool we have to ensure that everyone in the setting feels safe. To do this we have developed a system where we challenge unacceptable behaviour. We do this by getting down to the child's level, reiterating our rules and discussing what we could have done better. Sometimes children just need some time away from the activity to calm down. We also use a sand timer to remind others when their turn is finished. Most of staff have attended the 1 day behaviour management training which was really useful. we use positive language and avoid labelling children, we talk about the behaviour being unacceptable rather than the child.

If an incident happens you will be notified at the end of the session and asked to sign the incident slip. You get a copy of it too.

Any Questions

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

Thank you

Important Dates

WB 12th Sept- Stay & Play sessions restart on Mondays and Fridays

19th Sept- Jodie starts dance on Mondays

21st Sept- Tempest photography in from 11am to 1pm.

23rd Sept- MacMillan Coffee Morning from 9.30 to 11am

27th Sept- Open morning

5th Oct- Judith from Asda doing a food activity

24th Oct- Half term

31st Oct- Preschool open

9th Nov- Potton lower school visit

10th Nov-Open morning

23rd Nov-Sutton VA school visit

9th Dec- carol concert at 11am

12th Dec- Reception class performance at Potton Lower.

14th Dec- last full day of preschool

15th Dec- preschool Christmas party from 11am.

4th Jan- preschool returns

Photo session

From 11am to 1pm on the 21st Sept. Sarah is very good with the children. If your children do not attend that day, you are more than welcome to bring them in. Childminders and nannies can bring their little ones in too.