

# Woodentops Preschool

Oct/Nov 2020

## Blogs on Facebook

Jackie does a monthly blog of the fun and learning the children have had. To keep children safe the photos are anonymous.

## Welcome to Everyone

We're all really proud and relieved to have made it through to the half term without having to close. Thank you to all you parents who have supported us. We cannot accept a child who has had Calpol or Nurofen type medications prior to coming to preschool as it could mask the Covid symptoms. If your child has a temp of 37.8 C or above, has a dry cough or can't taste or smell their food, they must have a Covid test or isolate for 14 days. Once the test is negative, they can return as long as they are well enough to attend.

## Term Dates

Autumn Term 2020- 7<sup>th</sup> Sept to 18<sup>th</sup> Dec, Half Term-26<sup>th</sup> Oct to 30<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Spring Term 2021-4<sup>th</sup> Jan to 26<sup>th</sup> March, Half Term 15<sup>th</sup> Feb to 19<sup>th</sup> Feb

Summer Term 2021- 12<sup>th</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> July, Half Term 31<sup>st</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June

Autumn Term 2021- 6<sup>th</sup> Sept to 17<sup>th</sup> Dec, Half Term 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> Oct.

## Childrens Clothes

Please **Name** all your children's belongings including shoes!!! We have quite a few children with the same shoes and same bags/lunchboxes which can be very confusing for all, please display name on the outside.

## This Term

It has been very busy and I think the children have settled in really well. The children who had been with us throughout lockdown are coming to terms with sharing the room, staff and toys with a lot more children than they have been used to. They are doing very well and are being very caring towards all our little newbies. Old friendships have been rekindled and new ones made and developed.

Those that have been off for 6 months and all our little newbies have really made us proud with how well they have settled especially with our very short settling in introduction to Woodentops.

The children are gradually learning how to play with our 'natural' toys, developing creative games and ideas of how to make their thoughts come into play.

We have all got very messy in the mud, sand and water area. The children love it. Please remember to send them in warm waterproof coats. We have waterproof trousers here, which the children are putting on by themselves with a little support from us adults if needed and lots of spare wellies if they haven't brought theirs in. This is helping them for when they go to school and have to dress and undress for PE. It would be great if the children could have shoes that have Velcro fastening, so the children can put them on and remove them by themselves. They are always so proud of managing their shoes themselves. As part of the EYFS we must provide time out in the garden, hence why we provide waterproof trousers. It is a great way to do lots of learning and talking.

## Staff Changes

Brogan has set up her Vegan cake business- 'Brogan's Vegan Cakes'. Shannon has moved to a new nursery nearer to where she lives.

Cat has joined us and works 2 days a week.

Megan is a student from Herts College and is working 2 days a week with monthly block weeks.

Amy is due to join us after half term.

## Repel Hygiene

We are continuing to have our monthly spray of the room by Barry from Repel Hygiene and use the Zoono spray every morning on our hands, along with lots of handwashing and alcohol spray if needed. We do prefer handwashing as its the best way to clean away the germs. We have automatic foam dispensers in the toilets too.

## Mobile Phones and Photos

Please **DO NOT USE** your mobile phone at preschool. Your child/ children are so eager to speak to you and are very sad if you are on the phone. It's also a way of keeping all our children safe.

## Fees

The supplementary fee of £1.22 covers some of the costs of consumables, wipes, snacks and cooking sessions. This additional charge also covers the cost of the Family App, newsletters, learning journals, craft supplies and personal care consumables.

As Woodentops is a 'not for profit' business, all our money is

ploughed back into the business to give your children the best possible start in their educational journey. We do not make a profit on the uniform, do not charge a registration fee, we supplement our trips out and provide free sessions for our party days. We are not eligible for the charity support from other businesses and do not get a reduction in rent.

If you have an issue with payment of your invoice, please talk to Jackie and we can set up a payment plan. If I don't get payments, I will have to seek help from the Small Claims Court. You are also at risk of losing your child's space at Woodentops.

### Important Dates

#### 2020

26<sup>th</sup> Oct to 30<sup>th</sup> Oct – Half Term

18<sup>th</sup> Dec- Last day of Term finishing at 12pm

4<sup>th</sup> Jan- Spring term starts

15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Feb- Half Term

26<sup>th</sup> March- Last day of Term finishing at 12pm

12<sup>th</sup> April- Summer Term starts

16<sup>th</sup> April- Schools Admissions confirmed

31<sup>st</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> June- Half Term

16<sup>th</sup> July- Last day and End of Term party

#### Autumn Term

6<sup>th</sup> September 2021

#### The Gates

Please make sure you **shut the gates** when going in and out of Woodentops. This is to keep all our children safe going in and out of Woodentops.

#### Our New System- The Family App

On the app we are logging our accidents, incidents, messaging parents and children's attendance through it.

Having a laptop in the room is not always easy with little fingers wanting to join in the typing. So I have downloaded the app to the Woodentops work mobile.

One of the children said yesterday that I was using a mobile like them!!! and I told them that I use it to tell the parents what's happening in preschool. I then cottoned on to the fact that they may think that we are constantly on the phone- We do get a lot of bumps!!!!

I just want to remind all parents that our policy is that staff do not use their personal mobile phones in the setting. They are kept in the staff room and are used for their own personal emergency use. They always check with the manager before using their phone and it is always used in a room away from the children.

The work phone is used to log accidents, incidents, messaging parents plus answering any calls. We also use it to play music to our speaker so they can have a dance which they all love. The phone is password protected.

Your children's safety is our first priority and we are constantly reviewing how we manage to keep them safe and well.

#### Next Week

Next week is half term and we are due to come back on the 2nd November. The next term finishes on the 18th December. As we cannot have a party on the Friday (18th) which we usually do, we thought we

would do fun snack throughout the week. Our last day we will be closing at 12pm so there will be no lunch club on the 18th December.

#### Book Bags

We're going to be reintroducing these next half term. Each child will get a book bag, those of you who have them at home, please bring them back in.

#### Talking to Staff

Please remember to talk to staff regarding Preschool business at Preschool. Out of school they are trying to be 'ordinary' parents/people.

#### Any Questions

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

#### Toys from home

We prefer toys from not to come into Woodentops.

Cuddlies are necessary when a child is feeling sad and are used then.

Thank you.

#### Extended 30 Hours

Remember to redo your 30 hour code by the expiry date the HMRC have given you. If you don't, you will be liable for preschool fees for the extended 30 hours.

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>