



Word from Windmill

Autumn Term, November 2016

Its nearly Christmas...and what a busy Autumn term we have had so far and will continue to have until our big event – Christmas Nativity on 16th December. So this is what's been happening....

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way...

- ✓ Thank you for your **Christmas Card orders**. They are now being printed and will be ready in due course.
- ✓ '**Letter from Santa**' is back by popular demand...all letters need to be back to pre-school by 2nd December ready to be delivered through your letterbox before the end of term.
- ✓ **Coffee & mince pie anyone?** If you are free after school drop off at **9am on Wednesday 7th December**, please pop in to the Children's Centre next door to pre-school for a drink, cake and gossip. The kettle will be on. ☺
- ✓ **Our Christmas Nativity** is here again. The children are learning their songs ready for the performance at **9.15am arrival for a 9.30am start 16th December at Pitstone Hall**. You will have received our Nativity letter so don't forget to return your permission slips before 2nd December to make sure your child takes part. With the opportunity to meet Santa even with their siblings (don't forget to buy the sibling ticket!), receive a gift and make Christmas crafts, we can guarantee a morning of festive cheer and fun.

Wrap up warm...

With the colder weather here already, **please provide a suitable coat, outdoor footwear, hat, gloves and scarves** as appropriate so that your child can enjoy outdoor play. Also a change of clothes is always handy during this time of year. Both messy play and the odd puddle or two, can mean a change of outfit!

All for a good cause....

Fundraising is essential for us to purchase new interesting teaching aids for our children. We always appreciate your support-

- ✓ Thank you to everyone who participated in Carrie's photo sessions on 8th October and to all those people donating textiles on 11th November.
- ✓ Christmas Nativity brings many opportunities to raise money from 'Meet Santa' sibling tickets as detailed on the Christmas Nativity letter to the **Christmas Raffle**. For £1 a strip and the chance to win some great prizes, raffle tickets will be on sale at the Nativity Performance on 16th December.
- ✓ With Christmas fast approaching, you can help raise funds for *free* when you shop online with *Easyfundraising*. It doesn't cost you a penny! Shop online from over 2,700 retailers on www.easyfundraising.org.uk - they'll give a donation to us every time you buy.

What has my child been doing....

- ✓ You can read about the children's daily activities on the **Pick-Up Board** in front of Pre-School at pick-up times. This is updated every day and along with Facebook updates and Kate's blogs on www.windmillpreschool.co.uk, we hope you will get a good insight into the stories you hear from your children once they get home.
- ✓ **Tapestry online journal** charts your child's key milestones– we hope you have managed to use the system and enjoy reading about your child's progress. If you have any questions about Tapestry, please speak to Kate - she will go through it with you.



Off we go to school...

- ✓ For our older children leaving us in July 2017, preparing them for their step into Primary school is a key part of their day at Windmill. 'Transition' activities have started where the children work closely with staff to develop key learnings ready for the next step on their educational journey in September 2017.

Food warnings...

- ✓ Nuts: For the safety for the children with nut allergies, please do not put any kind of nut products in your child's packed lunch – this includes Nutella.
- ✓ Special Treats: Whilst it's lovely to share treats with their friends especially on birthdays, please do not send children to Pre-School with sweets or chocolates to share with their fellow pre-schoolers. There are a number of children with specific dietary requirements or have dairy allergies.

Reporting Absence...

It is very important that staff are aware in advance if any child is/may be absent from school. This is especially important for funded children as we need to log and report all absences. Please report absences to the school directly on 01296 661031 or manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk.

Facebook feeds...

Our Facebook page is a great way of updating parents with news, information and events. We kindly request that parents do not leave messages regarding your children or report absences on the Facebook Page. Please phone Kate directly on 01296 661031 or email manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk.

Goodbye, Thank You & Welcome to our Windmill Administrator...

So long farewell and thank you to our administrator, Claire Hose who has worked at Windmill for a number of years. A big thank you to Lara Rutherford who seamlessly stepped in to cover this role. And finally a warm welcome to Helen Dowley, our new administrator who joins Windmill in early December.

Making a difference...do you want to join the Pre-School Committee?

Windmill Pre-School is run by a voluntary management committee. We are always looking for new members to join our team of parents. We work hand in hand with the Windmill Preschool staff especially Kate, Joe and our administrator to make sure the school is operating as efficiently as possible and to make the school a great learning environment and home from home for your children. We look forward to welcoming new members to the team. If you are interested in joining the committee, please feel free to speak Carolyn Wright or Emma Newman: chair@windmillpreschool.co.uk

On a final note, thank you for your support this year. We look forward to seeing as many parents and carers as possible on 16th December for our Christmas celebrations.

Kind regards

Windmill Pre-School

