



## Word from Windmill

Happy New Year 2017

It's a busy start to the new year as we re-open our doors for the winter term. We are pleased to welcome back our returning children and we extend a warm welcome to all our new children. As we reflect on a fantastic lead up to Christmas, the Windmill team are now focused on another term of fun, interesting and educational activities.

### Only 12 months until Nativity 2017!

- ✓ A big thank you to everyone for their support for our most successful Christmas Nativity to date.
- ✓ Well done to all the children. We were very proud watching them standing on the stage remembering their lines, singing their nativity songs so beautifully and performing confidently with smiles on their faces— we definitely have some budding superstars!
- ✓ With all the fundraising activities happening on the lead up to and during the morning, we are thrilled to confirm over £600 was raised and can now be reinvested into the Pre-School. Thank you so much to everyone who got involved and supported the children with all the Christmas activities.

### Thank you...

to everyone who supported [Bags of Help](#) at [Tesco Tring](#) on [Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January](#), We are pleased to say that our dedicated volunteers raised £240.56 within our 2 hour slot. Such an amazing job – well done to everyone.

### Save the date...

Pop these dates into your diary for the moment...more information will be sent to you as the events get nearer... we don't want you to miss out!

- ✓ Another [Coffee Morning](#) will be held in the following months. Not only will there be coffee, biscuits & of course time for a gossip but we will also be selling [second hand school uniforms](#). Watch this space for more details.
- ✓ [Textile Recycling](#) is always a great success. The next recycling collections will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> July. Please start collecting your unwanted reusable textiles.
- ✓ [Photo sessions with Carrie](#) will be back by popular demand on 13<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> October. Whether it be single child photos or with siblings or families, this is always a very popular event.
- ✓ Our [Pre-School AGM](#) will be held in [May](#) This meeting is open to all parents and is the opportunity for committee and staff to review all the activities of the past year, look forward to the next year and elect new members to the management committee. A letter will be sent to all parents confirming the date shortly.
- ✓ [Sports Day and Graduation](#) will be held on [Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July](#)...the culmination to our academic year always brings lots of smiles, laughter, energy and often a few tears as we say goodbye to our older children.

### Off we go to school...

- ✓ Its only 7 months until our older children leave us to go to the next step of their educational journey. In preparation for Primary school, '[Transition](#)' activities are still playing a key part of their school day. Whether it be practicing their writing to risk assessment activities, we hope they are learning some important things which they will find useful as they move to their next school.



### **New Year, New additions to our Windmill team...**

- ✓ A warm welcome to [Emma Mahoney](#), our new administrator who joined Windmill in January. Thank you to Lara Rutherford who seamlessly stepped in to cover this role over the past few months.
- ✓ Another warm welcome to [Claire Atkins](#) who will be our new Windmill Pre-School Manager. Claire has over 14 years of early years' experience and will be joining us on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

So we begin the year with a full team of dedicated and enthusiastic professionals – a perfect start to another successful year for Windmill.

### **Time to share on Tapestry...**

Did you know you can also upload your own observations – photos and videos? Key workers really enjoy learning about their key children's activities at home and more importantly it helps them develop their care and activities to follow through the children's learnings from home. So, go on, don't be shy! Get photographing, filming & uploading.

### **Do you have an interesting job or hobby? Do you wear a well-known uniform to work?**

We would love to hear from anyone who can talk to the children about their job or hobby or even do a show and tell about an interesting subject. Past talks include a local dentist about the importance of dental care, an Easter visit from a parent bringing in real life baby chicks for the children to hold and a presentation by a parent sharing their experience of Diwali celebrations. These have stirred up a lot of interest from our children so we are keen to invite more people to get involved in these activities.

### **Making a difference on the Pre-School Committee?**

Windmill Pre-School is run by a [voluntary management committee](#). We are thrilled to welcome a couple of new members this new year but we are always looking for new people to join our team of parents. Don't forget the AGM will be held in May – we will be electing in new members. [Please contact Carolyn Wright and Emma Newman, Co-Chairs: \[chair@windmillpreschool.co.uk\]\(mailto:chair@windmillpreschool.co.uk\)](#) if you are interested.

### **It's never too early to register...**

Windmill Pre-School continues to be a very popular setting for local children. If you know anyone from the village who recently had a baby or have little children – they could be new neighbours, people you meet at community events etc., let them know how important it is to get their child on the Windmill waiting list. It's never too early – all they need to do is contact [Emma](#), [admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk).

We wish everyone a very Happy 2017 and we look forward to another successful year at Windmill Pre-School.

