



## Word from Windmill







### March 2017 – Spring Edition

The evenings are getting lighter, the sun has made its appearance a few times and we are over half way through our academic year... there is so much to tell you.







#### A very warm welcome...

To our new manager, **Claire Atkins**. We hope you have met Claire at pick up and drop off. Claire has brought lots of experience and ideas to Pre-School... watch this space as they unfold.



#### Did You Know...?

-  Our **WOW Board needs more WOW stories!** Anything special your child has done at home, just let a member of staff know. We will put it on our WOW board to mark their achievement
-  **Kindness Tree** acknowledges a gesture shown by your child towards another child. We are very proud of these moments so we hope you enjoy reading the Kindness Tree slips when they achieve this special recognition.
-  **Story Sacks** are available from reception. Simply grab a story book and its props, take them home for your children, then pop them back into the sack when you are finished.
-  Pre-School supports the **Smile Award** promoting healthy lifestyles. Whilst this seems boring(!), *we request sweets or chocolates are not provided in lunchboxes. We are also unable to give out sweets for birthdays.* Feel free to distribute other items like bubbles if you wish to celebrate an occasion with Pre-School friends.
-  **Windmill Pre-School, Pitstone Facebook Group** is a central hub of communication. If you are not a member, make sure you click on Windmill Pre-School, Pitstone Page to join the group.
-  **Guest speakers** are always welcome to visit us to talk about interesting jobs, hobbies, events at home etc. Please get in touch if you can share something new and different with our eager to learn pre-schoolers.

#### Thank You...

-  **For Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers.** Please keep dropping them into the Active Kids box in reception.
-  **For completing parent surveys.** Your opinion regarding new starter inductions and 30 hours funding was essential to building our future Pre-School plans. **Tapestry survey** will be distributed shortly – please have your say about the online journal. With all surveys, we collate the responses and the committee review the overall consensus of our parents. Your voice is always heard.
-  **For donating textiles** earlier this month – £32 raised will be going towards buying school equipment.
-  **For Tesco Bags of Help** raising £240.56. Great effort by Tring shoppers, our committee, parents and children.
-  **For our super fun pyjama day** in aid of CrackerJacks on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
-  **To everyone attending January Parents Evening,** however we were disappointed to have a number of parents not attending their appointments. We will be holding another parents evening in the year. If for any reason, you cannot attend your time slot, a quick phone call in advance would be great.

#### Dates for your Diary...

-  **From 24<sup>th</sup> March, Smarties Tubes** will be sent home with your children. Eating the chocolates is the easy part then simply fill the tube with coins (or notes!). Money raised will be invested into Pre-School.
-  **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Sponsored Walk to Pitstone Windmill.**



- 🌻 **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 8pm Pitstone Hall Meeting Room: Pre-School AGM.** A key opportunity for parents to meet committee and staff, review activities, plan the next year and elect new committee members. Pre-School could not open without the voluntary Management Committee - please show your support.
- 🌻 **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> October - Photography with Carrie.** Booking letters will be out in due course
- 🌻 **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June - Textile Recycling**
- 🌻 **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July: Sports Day and Graduation**

### Safety first

The safety of our children is a priority. Our updated Safeguarding procedures officially records all accidents occurring in Pre-School as well as anything that may have happened outside Pre-School. **Please advise staff of incidents occurring outside school** resulting in injuries such as bumps to the head, cuts, bruises or visible marks i.e. rashes. The new **Existing Injury Form** you will be asked to complete allows us to monitor your child ensuring they remain well and prevent any delays in addressing the nature of an injury.

### Feeling poorly?

- 🌻 Please **inform Pre-School by phone or email** about any illness. It is a requirement by the council that we are aware of all absences especially for funded children.
- 🌻 For the well-being of our other children and to meet correct reporting procedures, **we need to be aware of any potentially infectious illnesses circulating.** Please note absence due to sickness and/or diarrhoea requires a 48hr absence from school after the last bout of illness.

### Keeping personal items safe

- 🌻 **Please take your child's bag home at the end of each school day session** in order for us to keep the reception clean and tidy ready for the next school day.
- 🌻 Please **label belongings clearly.** My Nametags provides machine washable child's labels. An order through My Nametags also means a donation to Pre-School. Simply ask a member of staff for an order form.
- 🌻 We **encourage children to leave special items like comforters/toys at home.** If they need to bring it in, please put it in their drawer rather than bring it into the classroom. It is upsetting to see the children sad if their special things go missing.

### Good Luck to our older children...

- 🌻 Its only 1 month until our older children are advised about their new primary school. In preparation for the step into Reception, our staff are teaching the children activities which they will find useful in their 1<sup>st</sup> year at "big school" from risk assessments to handwriting practice. It's a wonderful learning curve.

**3 months into 2017 and there has definitely been a lot going on with even more planned. We will keep communicating through letters, emails and Facebook...**

**Watch this space for more Dates for your Diary and Pre-School News.**

