



Word from Windmill

Autumn Term, October 2017

Welcome to the new academic year. Just a few weeks in and we have plenty of news...



- Wednesday 11th October: Stay and Play Coffee morning.
- Monday 9th - Thursday 19th October: Harvest food collection.
- Saturday 21st October: Family Photo Session. Please contact Pre-School to book a slot.
- Saturday 28th October: Halloween Party, 4pm -5.30pm, Pitstone Memorial Hall. £5 tickets include hot dog and drinks. (Open to current pre-schoolers and ex-Windmill students in Foundation and Year 1. Tickets available from Pre-School).
- Tuesday 28th November: Parents Evening.
- Tuesday 19th December: Christmas Nativity and Christmas party, 9.30am, Pitstone Memorial Hall. (The last official school day will be Monday 18th December. Pre-School will be closed after the Christmas event on 19th).

2018

- 29th March: Easter bonnet parade and egg hunt (no preschool therefore last day is 28th March).
- 18th April: Parent coffee morning.
- 19th June: Pre-School trip. (Details to be confirmed).
- 3rd July: Parents Evening.
- 5th July: Grandparents day.
- 9th July: Sports day (weather permitting. If cancelled, it will be rescheduled).
- 24th July: Leaver's ceremony (no Pre-School therefore last day is 23rd July).



to...

- all our children and parents. We hope the beginning of term has been a smooth transition for you and we look forward to a great term ahead.
- Melissa Bowles who returned this academic year in her promoted role as Deputy Manager. Congratulations Melissa!
- Jane Tanswell and Kairen Bullifent, who have waved goodbye to their temporary roles and are now permanent members of Windmill staff. Great to have both Jane and Kairen on board as fully-fledged members of the team.



Activity updates...

- Planning/Group Time:** Our brand-new daily adult led 'Group Time' sessions are underway. Activities are planned around the children's personal learning next steps and interests, working closely with their key person in small groups with others from same age bracket. With a focus on EYFS developmental benchmarks, we hope these sessions are both educational and fun.



Display Boards: The quiet room/ foyer is home to brand new information boards:

- **Parent information board** with details of all upcoming events.
- **Long-term planning board (above the computer)** sharing the month's activity calendar and our story/rhyme of the week.
- **Team board** which displays detail of staff in their key groups. 2 whiteboards also explain what the children have been doing in 'Group Time' with their key person.



Tapestry online journal will continue to be updated so you can track your child's progress. *Don't forget to upload your own observations, make comments and 'like' new uploads.*



Parent Show & Tell: Do you have an interesting job, a unique pet, a special hobby you can share with the children? We promise, you would have a captive audience here at Windmill.



Reporting Absence...

With illnesses circulating already, it is essential 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 [Pre-School directly on 01296 661031 or manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk).



Our Facebook page is always updated with information and events. *We kindly request that parents do not leave messages regarding your children or report absences on Facebook.* Please phone Claire directly on 01296 661031 or email manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk.



All for a good cause...

Fundraising is essential to purchase new teaching aids. We always appreciate your support-



Events like Halloween disco, family photo session, Christmas nativity enables Pre-School to raise valuable funds to purchase more equipment and make key improvements to the classroom.



With Christmas fast approaching, you can 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.



Making a difference... join the Pre-School Committee

Windmill Pre-School is run by a **voluntary management committee**. New members are always very welcome to join our existing team of parents who work hand in hand with Pre-School staff especially Claire, Melissa and Emma to make sure the school is operating efficiently and continues to be a great learning environment. *If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact James Mackie on chair@windmillpreschool.co.uk or speak to any member of the committee – Helen, Cyrus, Vicky, Tuli, Linda, Liz, Natalie or Jack.*

