



THE WOODLAND PRE-SCHOOL

*The Guide and Scout Centre, Coates Lane,
Downley, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP13 5UX
01494 521953 (8.00am – 3.30pm)*

www.thewoodlandpreschool.co.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

January 2025

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the children and parents who were with us last year, and a very warm welcome to our new starters. We hope that you and your family have had a good Christmas holiday and managed to have some quality family time. Thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards – the chocolates and biscuits will keep us going for weeks!

Themes

We are looking forward to the new term & during the first few weeks we will be introducing the children to our routines and thinking about how we enjoyed the Christmas break. The themes for this half term are Animals and Festivals, with Fantasyland and Easter being the themes for after half term. As always, we will be ready to follow the children's interests and ideas – if you have any thoughts or suggestions, please do let us know. We also love it when children bring in contributions linked to our theme that they may have made or found at home.



Key-person

The key-person system operates for all children. Your key-person will have introduced herself to you and your child during the first week back. Should you wish to tell us anything about your child or discuss their progress, please contact your key-person or Katy or Natalie. If you have any concerns that your child may need additional support you can ask to speak to our SENCo Bea Frost.

Each child has been allocated to an animal group which they usually stay in during their time at Woodlands. When they are three years old, once a week the children in the animal group will go into the Language Shed outside, on the relevant day, for a more focused group activity time. There is a soft toy animal and diary which go home with each child for a week, usually once a term, and we would like you to record some of the activities that your child enjoys with their animal. **Please ensure you return the soft toy animal and the sheet telling us what they got up to in time for the group the following week.**

Mondays – Deer group with Katy & Emily
Tuesdays - Fox group with Gemma & Shayle
Wednesdays – Mole group with Lisa & Sarah
Thursdays – Squirrel group with Natalie & Lydia

Parent/Staff Evening

Our “parent evenings” are an opportunity for you to meet staff to discuss your child’s progress and will be on Thursday 20th March for Deer and Foxes and Thursday 27th March for Moles and Squirrels. Nearer the date you will be sent an email offering various time slots between 6.15pm and 8.30pm which is when you will have an opportunity to speak with your child’s key person and the other staff member from the same animal group in a private meeting.

Breakfast and Lunch Club

This term we are not offering our usual breakfast club of 8am – 9am due to lack of interest. Instead we are running an Early drop-off from 8.30-9am, Monday to Friday at a cost of £3.50 per session. There are some ad-hoc spaces available so please speak to Karen if you would like your child to join us if you have an early meeting or appointment.

For lunch club please remember to send your child with a variety of nutritious, tasty foods but **no nuts or nut products e.g. peanut butter, pesto or Nutella** due to allergy risks. We also ask you not to send sweets or bars of chocolate such as mars bars as we try to encourage healthy eating. Drinks of water or milk are provided - there is no need to send in an additional drink. Please remember that fees are non-refundable for sickness or holidays.



Clothing

We try to use our outside area as much as possible so children **must** bring a pair of named wellington boots as well as a warm, waterproof coat to Woodlands as we do not keep spares and we would like all children to have the opportunity to learn outdoors. The Guide and Scout Hut is an old building and isn't well insulated and some of the children have complained of being cold so please ensure your child is dressed in layers that can be taken off or put back on as necessary. Please also send your child in wearing clothes that enable them to access the toilet quickly, some of the children have had accidents due to clothing being too tight or not easy to pull up and down independently. Hats and gloves are also important – **please name everything!**



Please remember to send in spare clothing even for toilet trained children. We often do “messy play” and aprons don't always manage to catch all spills, they are also tabard style aprons and don't have sleeves and children often forget to push their sleeves up when washing hands and playing in the water. Nobody likes a soggy sleeve and a spare jumper is advisable. There is also a stock of second hand uniform in the box in the foyer - very useful to have a spare jumper or two!

Reminders

The main session at Woodlands starts at 9.00am. Prior to this time the staff will be setting up and therefore if you arrive early, we ask you to supervise your child particularly if they use the external play equipment. If at all possible, please try to walk to Woodlands to give your child an opportunity to walk/run before starting their morning with us!

However, if walking is not possible, please remember to park considerately when dropping off/collecting your child as we have had complaints from residents who live along Commonsides & Littleworth Road. Do not park on the main road outside the hut, across driveways or anywhere that means your child leaves the car on the drivers' side of the road. The corner of Commonsides with Littleworth Road is potentially dangerous so please park a little further away.

Karen Pearson, our administrator, will be at Woodlands on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays to answer any questions about sessions, funding, application forms etc.

If you are seeking a place for your child at a primary school for the next academic year i.e. your child was born between 1/09/20 – 31/08/21, please make sure you have submitted your application by midnight on **15th January 2025**. You should apply online – details are on the Bucks County Council website.

Illness

We know there have been a lot of germs going round so hope you weren't plagued by illness over the festive period. If your child has a very snotty cold or frequent cough, please also keep them at home as there are very few children who are capable of blowing/wiping their noses independently or covering their mouths when they cough, and a high number of staff absences due to illness could affect our opening hours.



If your child has a stomach upset remember to keep them at home for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. Please ring in or email to let us know if your child will not be attending for any reason.

Snow!

Please note that wherever possible Woodlands will endeavour to stay open. There is a copy of Woodlands snow policy available for your information. Should we be unable to open, information about closure will be put on the Bucks County Council website. The Woodland Pre-School website and the Parents Face book page will also be updated as well as an email sent out to all parents. If in any doubt, please ring our telephone number – if unanswered after several rings we are closed!



If it snows during this half term please dress your child appropriately as we will go outside! (Spare trousers and socks & waterproof gloves are a good idea).

Help!

There are about 30 children each morning this term, and with each child washing their hands at least once we are using a lot of kitchen towel. Last year's parents very regularly generously donated packs of kitchen towels but our stocks are now rapidly depleting. If you could donate a roll or two every few weeks, we would be most grateful. We also regularly use newspaper for messy activities but often run out. If you still get newspapers, please help by bringing some in.

Please do not let your child bring sweets or biscuits in their pockets or bags. If you would like your child to share anything edible with the group, please make arrangements with staff first.

Thank you.

Katy, Nat & the Woodlands Team

Dates for your diary.

Week 1 w/c Monday 6th January 2025

Theme; Welcome back/ Polar Animals

Week 2 w/c Monday 13th January 2025

Theme; Desert & Safari Animals

Week 3 w/c Monday 20th January 2025

Theme; Jungle/Rainforest Animals

Tuesday 21st Yoga with Jo from First Yoga

Week 4 w/c Monday 27th January 2025

Theme; Farm Animals

Fire Drills will happen this week

Week 5 w/c Monday 3rd February 2025

Theme; Ocean Animals

Monday 3rd Dance & Drama with Gemma from Stage Plus

Week 6 w/c Monday 10th February 2025

Theme; Valentines/ Pets (opportunity to bring your pet in, speak to Karen or Katy!)

End of first half of the term.

Half - term holiday Monday 17th – Friday 21st February.

Week 7 w/c 27th February 2025

Theme; Fantasyland

Week 8 w/c 3rd March 2025

Theme; Fantasyland.

Bucks Early Years Communication Week

Wednesday 5th Dance and drama with Gemma from Stage Plus

Thursday 6th World Book Day

Week 9 w/c 10th March 2025

Theme; Fantasyland

Week 10 w/c 17th March 2025

Theme; Fantasyland

Week 11 w/c 24th March 2025

Theme; Easter

Week 12 w/c 31st March 2025

Theme; Easter

Friday 4th Inset day - Woodlands is closed

Term finishes on Thursday 3rd April. Woodlands re-opens on Tuesday 22nd April

