



## Wind in the Willows Newsletter

February/ March 2018



*Children creating roads in the garden*

### *Dear Families of Wind in the Willows*

We welcome everybody into the spring term of 2018! We will hopefully soon be seeing the spring appear around us too with warmer weather, lighter mornings and evenings and blossom and flowers appearing.

#### **Parent Area / Foyer**

Due to a high rise in numbers of children we have had to put a few things in place in the nursery foyer to enable a safe and accessible area for parents and the children.

We now ask for the children's bags to be in the two big plastic boxes that are at the end of the foyer and their coats only to be hung on the pegs this is to allow space for all children's belongings.

With this in mind, we can only allow 2 big pushchairs in the foyer or 3 stroller type pushchairs again to enable a safe and fire evacuation friendly area. We have provided another buggy storage box outside as well as the green buggy storage unit that is there too. Children's bikes and scooters must be parked on the stones and therefore left at your own risk.

Again, with the high rise in numbers of children attending the setting we kindly ask for you to be patient whilst waiting for a staff member to attend to you for handovers and answering the door. The children and staff are so engrossed in playing and learning with your children it can take a while at times to get to you. 9am and 4pm session times are extremely busy and therefore to maintain the safety of your children and maintain our ratio's one staff member can only be away from the children for this and take all handover messages. We do encourage to join in with play in your child's room whilst patiently waiting for a staff member to be available. We thank you for your co operation.



#### **Staff changes**

We are pleased to announce that Shannan Page has been appointed as our named Deputy Manager in the nursery. This is due to Karen Potter exploring new working ventures within her teaching career, but she will still be in the nursery 2 days a week. Shannan will be Acting manager when Aimee is absent from the nursery, but will still be based fully in the Tadpoles room. We like to wish her well and thank you for your continued support within the nursery.

#### **Unfamiliar faces**

Safeguarding of your children is our number one priority at Wind in the Willows. Over the last few weeks there have been many new families join us and so a lot of new faces to identify. With this in mind, please do not be offended if a member of staff asks to confirm your identity. Please remember our password system is there to protect you and your children. We thank you for your support and understanding.

#### **Early and Late charges-**

Please be aware of your timing's of arriving and picking up from the nursery. We are very busy and staff are deployed according to times of the children booked, therefore with early drop off's and picking up late, it does affect our child ratio's and therefore we have to pay additional staff so regretfully our charges must be adhered too.

#### **The Early Years Foundation Stage at Wind in the Willows-**

As world book day approaches here are some great benefits for the you and your child to read together.

- Reading to your children leads to questions about the book and the information within. It gives you a chance to speak about what is happening and use this as a learning experience. It may also develop an interest in different cultures or languages. There is nothing better seeing a child who loves to learn.
- Providing your child with different types of books on different topics, or even in different languages for bilingual kids, gives them a wide range of information for them to learn. There are informative books on topics such as different animals, places or objects etc, and there are also different books to help teach children about important life skills such as sharing, being kind, and diversity.
- There's nothing better than cuddling up to your little one and reading a book or a bedtime story together. Spending time with one another, reading, and talking, can bring parents closer to your children. For parents who work, or have a busy lifestyle, relaxing with your child and simply enjoying each other's company while reading can be a great way for you both to wind down, relax, and bond.

### **Updates at Wind in the Willows**

Please read the updates for all rooms to find out what we are doing throughout the nursery.

### **Badgers (Preschool Room) Updates**

The children have created lots of real life experiences into their role play the last couple of months. In January we made the role play room into a post office and visited our local post office in the community. In February the role play area has been transformed into a doctor's through children's interest, A preschool parent also came and did a talk as she was a nurse herself and donated some resources. The preschool will be celebrating Chinese New Year over the next couple of weeks and will be having Chinese food and crafts supported by our Chinese student who is at placement here at nursery.

### **Moles (Two-Year Room) Updates**

The moles room have been developing their role play area according to the children's interests. This month it has been a pirate ship using natural resources to incorporate this. We will also be celebrating various celebrations in the next few weeks for example Chinese New Year, Mother's day and Easter is fastly approaching. The 2-year room have also been busy transitioning children into the preschool again too.

### **Toads 16 months – 2 years) Updates**

The toads room have been busy transitioning children into the 2 year room this month and have welcomed a few children from Tadpole room so have been settling children in their new routines. The staff are also working on new resources to develop communication and language in the room for example puppets, family books, song bags and story bags.

### **Tadpoles (Baby Room) Updates**

Last month within the baby room we welcomed 5 new babies into our setting. We have been participating in a range of messy play activities to enhance the babies' exploration play and to help them use all their senses. We have also been focusing on their physical development, helping those who can stand to try and walk. To do this, we have participated in lots of different activities such as using walkers, strengthening legs on mini trampolines and climbing the play gym.

REMINDER- Please provide your child with nappy cream if they have nappy rash or you would like cream used at every nappy change as we do not have any spare thankyou

### **Lola the Lamb**

Lola the lamb is Tadpoles new mascot and has been named! Parents and staff suggested a group of names and preschool children voted and incorporating our British values. We will be sending her home with children with a diary for you to let us know what you have been up too. Please let us know if you're going on any adventures you would like to share with us.

### **Updates**

#### **Children's Packed lunches**

Due to allergies in the nursery we cannot give children chocolate spread sandwiches due to them containing traces of nuts. We have children attending with high nut allergies. Please can you bring in an alternative sandwich filler.

In line with our nursery policy and the EYFS curriculum we encourage healthy meals and snacks at Wind in the Willows and we encourage the children to help us with the preparation. Therefore, please be mindful of the choices you provide for their lunch boxes. We discourage chocolate products in their lunch boxes. Information about this will be displayed on your parent information board to support you with this.

#### **Children's Committee**

Our children's committee is still ongoing and our discussion this term for the meeting is tea and lunch choices and what they would like to see in our garden.

#### **WANTED!**

##### **Garden Seeds**

As Spring is approaching we will be planting in our garden again to grow our own fruit and vegetables to eat. We are looking for some seed donations to help with our growing in the garden. Please pass these on to Lucie who will be going all green fingers with the children in the next upcoming weeks.

#### **Easter stay and play**

Our Easter stay and play is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March all parents and children are invited to join along even if it not our day due in. Easter egg hunts, Easter bonnet parade competition, Easter Raffle and Easter arts and crafts.

**AM- 10.30am-11.30am Tadpoles, Toads (Both Baby rooms) and Moles (2yrs)**

**PM 2pm-3.30pm – Preschool**

#### **Nursery photographer**

Nursery photographer has been booked this year dates are :

Graduation school leavers- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 (times TBC)

Whole nursery – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2018

## World Book Day – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

Dress up as your favourite character from your favourite story book and bring in your favourite story too!

### CALLING ALL PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS!

for world book day on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March we would like some volunteer story tellers to come and read your favourite story to the children in all rooms!

This will be a mystery to the children and an exciting opportunity to be involved with the children and nursery. We encourage dress up/ props/ masks etc. Please see Aimee to book in a slot to be involved 😊

### The Gambia

Our next shipment to The Gambia left on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February so Karen Potter and Ben will meet it when they arrive during the Easter holidays. We would like to thank you all for your kind donations that you have sent in – photos will follow.

### Our Future Vision of children's development

Over the next coming week's we are excited to announce that we will be moving forward to online learning journey's to evidence the children's development rather than the paper folders. We thank you for your kind donations that we have been saving during fundraising events, finally we can move forward and make this happen as we enter the next chapter of our nursery vision.

More information will be coming on this in the next few weeks so watch this space!

### Shearwater Care Home

Preschool have a few visits planned over the next few weeks to visit our 'Nannie's and Grandads' at the care home. The children will be doing different Easter activities at the care home

### Easter Holiday Club

We have spaces for older children for Holiday club a timetable will come out of planned outings and days soon. Please note if you book your children in for holiday club and don't attend you will still be charged.

We still love exploring the outdoors please could you provide your child with a warm coat as well as wet weather clothing (Puddle suits and Wellies and of course spare clothes). As we know the British weather changes throughout the day so we aim to be prepared for all weathers.

If you had wellies here from last year please can you try them on with your child to make sure they still fit.

### Reminders:

- ★ Please ensure all belongings are clearly named as we do have doubles of clothing at times.
- ★ Please provide at least one spare change of clothes for your child (more if you are toilet training!)

### Dates for your Diary

**1<sup>st</sup> March** – Raffle tickets go on sale for our Easter raffle

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – World Book day dress up

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**- Easter stay and play session

### Term Dates

Term ends-  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018-Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (Easter Holidays)

Nursery closed-  
Good Friday – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March  
Easter Monday – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April