

# WINDMILL PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

## January 2021



Welcome to this month's newsletter.

### Forest School donations

We received extra donations towards our forest school and we have now purchased a lovely fire box. Thank you so much for all your support.

### Class 2 Forest School

This term we will be going on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for spending the morning outside.

### Class 1 garden

Over the Christmas break we had a lovely new sandpit installed. Thank you to Rob Hill for filling it with sand for us! We hope to add to our sand pit to make it even more special....more details to follow.

We also want to add something to promote physical development without taking up too much space! We are currently exploring all of the different options on offer!

All of our improvements are made possible through fundraising. We are hoping to restart this when restrictions have eased again.

### Class 2 garden

Over Christmas we had our gate, playhouse and edging around the climbing frame fixed.

Due to the very wet weather, we are suffering with lots of mud!!! We have closed off areas of the garden to allow these areas to recover. Unfortunately, artificial grass is very expensive and would cost us at least £10,000 to cover the

### Term Dates

#### Term dates for 2020/2021

Half term

Monday 15th February -  
Friday 19th February

Close for Easter

Thursday 1st April

\*Closed for Inset day

Monday 19th April

\*Open for Summer term

Tuesday 20th April

Half term

Monday 31st May - Friday  
4th June

Close for Summer

Friday 16th July 12 noon

remaining areas. Class 2 garden is also on a hill and the water naturally runs down it. We would however like to cover our sandpit area and need either a very sturdy gazebo or someone to build us a wooden structure similar to Class 1's sandpit. If anyone could help us with this, we would be extremely grateful.

### **Light in the dark!**

We would like to thank Phil Mott who kindly came to our rescue and sorted out our very dark kitchen when the light went off near the beginning of the term. And again when we suffered problems following a local power cut!

### **Tapestry**

Most of you have now activated your account on Tapestry, if you have not received the email or you are having issues please let us know and we will help you to gain access.

Thank you for sharing your observations on Tapestry with us, this is really helpful.

### **Internet safety**

We know that lots of families are accessing the internet more than ever before. It is great for keeping in contact with family and friends. Please see the attached information regarding keeping children safe online.  
[online-safety-under-5s.pdf \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety-under-5s.pdf)

### **Covid 19**

We had our first Covid-19 case within our staff team this week which led to us closing Pre-School and asking all staff and 17 children to isolate. Thank you for all of your support and well wishes during this time. I know from talking to the staff team we are all desperate to get back to Pre-School with the children.

We have ensured that the setting has been deep cleaned and we have had a professional company in to fog the whole setting.

As a team we added lots of activity ideas onto Tapestry and facebook. We appreciate that this is not the same as being with your children, but we hope it gave you some ideas.

Thank you for continuing to support us with all the rules and guidance around covid. Please remember that children are not permitted to bring in toys from home unless it is a comforter for when they are settling in, this is to help reduce any possible risks to everyone. We would also like to remind you that

only one adult should be dropping off and/or collecting and we ask you to wear a mask.

### **Staffing update**

We currently have a reduced staff team. This is due to various reasons including individual staff members circumstances, school placements for our own children and restrictions around school hours and support bubbles. The beginning and the end of the days are particularly challenging for us, please bear with us if it seems a bit busier than normal.

### **Key person survey**

Please help us to improve our practice by completing this very short survey re: our key person system. <https://forms.gle/BfQfkzemSCA8hwS1A>

### **Safeguarding**

[Report a concern](#)

**If you are worried about a child it's important to raise your concerns. If you think that a child you know is in immediate danger, call the Police straight away 999.**

### *First Response Team*

You can raise any concerns with the First Response Team. Buckinghamshire Children's Services have a team that are there to help you. You can also discuss any concerns by contacting First Response.

Telephone: 01296 383 962, Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5.30pm or Friday 9am to 5pm

For more information and advice please click on the link below.

<https://www.buckssafeguarding.org.uk/childrenpartnership/parent-and-carers/>