

**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021**

 **WOODLEY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESCHOOL**

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

A busy Autumn term comes to a close and Preschool will finish **today** the 17th with a fun last day of games, music & party snacks as well as a special (COVID secure!) visit from the man in red bearing gifts!! We hope the children have enjoyed this term, especially if it is their first one with us, despite us having to continue with some restrictions due to the Coronavirus situation.

Despite the restrictions, we did manage to again show our Christmas Celebration online on the 15th December. Thank you to those who were able to join us & for your positive feedback. The children did a fantastic job especially as we had quite a few absences in the weeks leading up to the big day! What fantastic singers! We will send you a link as soon as possible for you to all be able to view the final version!

Don’t forget there are activities & services over the Christmas period at the Church, particularly the Family Fun session on Christmas Eve, for which you have had leaflets. Visit the Church website at [www.woodleybc.org](http://www.woodleybc.org) for more details.

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Thank you again to everyone who supported our CHILDREN IN NEED week in November. We raised £60.00 for this charity. Congratulations to Ella and Jack for winning the prizes in the colouring Pudsey competition. Well done to everybody who took part.

Everyone has now had the opportunity to speak to their child’s Key Person and read the Tapestry Summary Reports for the Autumn Term. Thank you for joining us at the socially distant sessions across last week. We have received some very positive feedback about the online Learning Journals that most people seem to be logging into fairly regularly to see what the children do at Preschool. Don’t forget to comment on anything and of course to add your own photos & observations of what the children do outside of Preschool, especially anything exciting they get up to over the Christmas holidays.

Everyone who ordered photographs should have received their pictures or digital download by now. Should there be any queries please go to <https://www.dianefrazerphotography.co.uk>

Now that the weather is getting colder can the children have suitable **NAMED** outdoor clothing/footwear as they always have access to the garden. For safety reasons please do not leave any plastic or drawstring bags on coat pegs. Names on the **OUTSIDE** of bags please. You will have seen the children have made name keyrings which have been hung on bags to help staff identify them when needed. Bags can be left in the designated area in the Church hall. **Please ensure there is no food, drink or medication left in these bags.** We would also ask that children wear plenty of warm layers to Preschool. Due to COVID-19 protocols our room has to be ventilated at all times and windows and doors will be open throughout the morning.

A reminder to parents of those children who will be going to Primary school in September 2022 that the Application process began on 13th November. You must apply for a school place on the Citizens Portal School admissions website at https://schoolsonline.wokingham.gov.uk/CitizenPortal. The deadline for applications is 15th January 2022. If anyone needs support or advice on their application, you can contact the School Admissions team on 0118 9746000 or at schooladmissions@wokingham.gov.uk.

Last week we had an unannounced visit from the Public Protection Partnership of Wokingham Borough Council (Environmental Health) to inspect our food preparation and snack time for the children. We are proud to say we were awarded a \*5 STAR Food Hygiene Rating\*.

We are still operating in a different way due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation. As discussed in previous correspondence, although many restrictions were lifted matters are changing rapidly with the new Omicron variant now being transmitted, which places more importance on the systems we have in place, so thank you for all your support. As a reminder – where possible **only 1 adult** drops off & collects your child to & from Preschool. When entering the building please ensure **you are wearing a face covering** (we are aware of those who have exemptions). Please **use the hand sanitiser** as you enter & if needed there is an additional one on the table with our noticeboard. Please respect those who wish to continue with **social distancing**. Should you or your child or any other household member show signs of the virus please **do not come into Preschool** until you have had a negative PCR test. For the current guidelines on taking PCR tests – see <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> Thank you. You will be notified over the Christmas break if we have to change anything about the way we operate from January. Please check your emails and our website.



Lastly, as you are all aware we are losing three long standing members of staff this year. Mrs. Beard, Mrs. Parker & Mrs. Gore will finish today 17th December. We thank them for all the many years of work at Preschool and wish them well in the future. Goodbye & good luck!

Losing over half our staff at a time of a national shortage of qualified Early Years Practitioners & during the continued difficult times of COVID-19 will be a challenge for Preschool. As a result, we are limiting our current intake to just 21 children, in order to continue with our high adult:child ratio as we welcome Mrs. Kaylea Smith who has already joined us for a few days these last weeks & Miss Catherine Hall who will be joining us in January. Thanks also to Mrs. Rosemary Paine who has agreed to come out of retirement to join us part time for a short while to help us through this transition period. As always, Preschool aims to continue to provide the excellent quality of childcare we have a reputation for in the area and we look forward to a new and exciting year ahead for all the children.

**DATES FOR DIARIES:**

**LAST DAY OF TERM – Friday 17th December 2021**

**FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM – Monday 10th January 2022**

**NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING – Tuesday 15th February 2022**

**HALF TERM – 21st – 25th February 2022**

**END OF SPRING TERM – Friday 8th April 2022**

If any of your contact details have recently changed, especially mobile phone numbers and email addresses, please don’t forget keep us informed!

Finally, should you have any questions, queries or comments please speak to a member of staff.

Thank you as always for your support of Preschool. Have a lovely Christmas break.

 Tel: 0118 9699956

 Website: [www.woodleybaptistchurchpreschool.org](http://www.woodleybaptistchurchpreschool.org)

 Email: preschool@woodleybc.org

Can we just remind everyone that if your child is sick or you have a last-minute day out/at home for example, please could you telephone to let us know as early as possible? Please inform us in advance of any holidays, doctor’s appointments, or hospital visits. If you know your child is going to be late in for any reason, try and let us know at the session before. **PLEASE NOTE**: if no contact has been made with us by 10.30am staff will contact you so the reason for absence can be recorded.