

Newsletter - January 2005

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1. Dates for Your Diary

29th January - Coffee Shop
11th February - last day of term
21st February - first day back
22nd February - parents' morning
12th March - Coffee Shop
18th March - Live bands with charity auction.
5th May - no pre-school. Village Hall shut for local elections.

2. Hello and Goodbye

Last term we said good bye to Aiden, Alex, Tula and Charlie who have all gone up to 'big school'. However, we would like to welcome Sophie, Josie, Saffrin, Jessie, Jana, Sean, Gemma, Justin, Harry, Roseanna (phew!) and their families. We are sure that you will love your time at Woodcote Pre-school.

We like to think that we are relaxed and approachable. If you have any queries, please speak to a member of staff. Our success depends on parents

getting involved with running the pre-school and with fundraising etc. If you are interested in helping out, please say.

3. New Chairman

As most of you will know, Cathy Gordon stepped down at Christmas when Alex moved on to 'big school'. She was Chair for nearly two years and we are all extremely grateful to her for all her hard work. **Jost Wahlen (872767)** has nobly agreed to replace her - our first male chair for years! Jost is not, however, often at the pre-school, so Ruth Hubbard (681391) may be contacted for day to day queries. Here are the mug-shots to help you find us!



4. Our Sessions are Filling Up!

This term we are busier than ever before. We pride ourselves on being flexible and on being willing to take children for extra sessions on short notice. However, we are getting regular enquiries from new parents and some of our sessions are rapidly filling up.

We are currently considering whether or not we are able to arrange extra staff, but in the meantime, we strongly suggest you book and pay for sessions in

advance to avoid possible disappointment.

5. Parents' Morning Tuesday 22nd February 2005

Yes, we know we said it was going to be on 1st February, but we have had to postpone it! We have so many Plus 4s that Chris Bernard is run off her feet and would like a little more time to prepare.

The parents' morning will start at 9.30am and will be an opportunity for you to talk to the staff about your child's progress. Each parent will have their own time slot. We have several children who will be going to big school at Easter, so slots will first be allotted to them. The remaining slots will be offered to other parents. If we run out of slots, individual meetings between parents and their child's key worker will be arranged on a mutually convenient date.

If you would like to come to the parents' morning, please complete the tear off slip and return it to Sharron.

6. Name Tags Please!

It's that time of year when the coat hooks are bursting with anoraks and bags, and the lobby's awash with wellies and shoes. It can all get very confusing when the staff try to get the children changed. There are often interesting differences of opinion when a budding Liberacé insists that his is the pink coat with sequins or a tiny two insists that she wants the size 11 Power Ranger

wellies! Could everyone please make sure coats, bags and wellies etc are named.

Our new families have doubtless noticed that we are not short of mud at Woodcote Pre-school! Could all children please be changed into slippers etc on arrival. Wellies are vital for afternoon children in case we go out.

7. Fundraising and all that Jazz

Race Night - £1,200

The final total for the Race Night was amazing! Most of this is being put with our donation from the Woodcote Rally and will shortly be spent on a new laptop. Our existing PC is elderly and temperamental (it's not happy being moved in and out of the cupboard). The laptop will be both portable, and will free up a lot of space in our storage cupboard.

Live Bands - 18th March

Everyone who came to the Race Night said what a great time they'd had and what good value for money it was. We are therefore going to run a live music evening on **Friday 18th March**.

We will have two bands (one of which counts Hank Marvin amongst its fans!) playing a mixture of blues, latin, swing and melodic jazz. If you have felt the urge to do high kicks to 'New York, New York', hummed to Louis Armstrong singing 'What a Wonderful World' or even if you like Elvis, you'll love it.

To add to the entertainment, there will be a charity auction, at which a mixture of celebrity lots and 'promises' will be sold. If anyone has any ideas or donations, please speak to Ruth.

Tickets will be £10, including a ploughman's and pudding. There will be a licensed bar, with real ales. **Speak to Ruth on 681391** if you would like tickets.

Coffee Shop - 29th January

As our old hands will know, the Coffee Shop is a great village institution. It is run at the Community Centre, between the primary school and the library.

Every Saturday morning between 10am and 12.30pm, a different village group serves fresh coffee, tea and homemade cakes for *bargain* prices. It's a great place to go to meet friends or to pop into after visiting the library etc. We run the Coffee Shop every month or so, and usually make between £60 and £90 on each occasion.

Each time we need about twelve cakes and four volunteers to serve the coffee etc. If you can help out (we can freeze

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We would (not) like to come to the parents' morning on Tuesday 22nd February.

Name

Child's name

Preferred time between 9.30am and 12 noon

(Please speak to Sharron to confirm your time)

cakes made in advance), please speak to **Ben Harrison** or telephone her on **684141**.

Christmas Fête - £240

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas fête (the children certainly did!). Thank you to everyone who came along to buy the children's wares.



8. Food Donations

The new food donation rota is working out well. However, could we please remind all parents (and we know you new ones will not have known) that we do like all our Wednesday morning children to come armed with a piece of fruit which can be shared out at snack time.