



NEWSLETTER

16 MARCH 2020

This week's theme is spring time on the farm. We will be making animal pictures, masks and singing animal songs and having fun around the theme. Please bring in any books you may have to support this topic.

We will also be concentrating on a little surprise for next Sunday xx

The number is 10 and the colour is orange.

Wednesday 25th March - Visit to High Weald Academy Farm in Cranbrook - This has now been CANCELLED by The High Weald Academy Farm as a result of the Coronavirus

Jo Galloway will not be in setting this week. If you have any issues in relation to your child please see Kat when you drop off or their key worker. Other members of the team are taking care of Jo's key children in her absence so please speak to Kat if you don't already know which member of staff that is for your child. If you have any other queries, including finance or invoice queries please speak to myself: Jayne Russell 07766 553728 or email jaynegvp@gmail.com and I will answer as soon as I can.

Easter Bunny Bounce - Wednesday 1st April: All children are invited to the end of term annual sponsored Bunny Bounce where we will finish for the Easter holidays at 1pm. More information to follow next week.

We are looking for Trustees to join our team. If you or anyone you know is interested and would like to know more then please get in touch with Jayne Russell. (07766553728 or jaynegvp@gmail.com).

Coronavirus (COVID-19): What is the pre-school doing? We are following all Government and KCC advice with regard to the virus and washing our hands in setting as advised with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, last week to the Happy Birthday song twice, but this week maybe to another song to keep it fresh and fun for the children. We are handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing and after using the toilet. We are following the official advice below so please read and stay home if you or your child show symptoms.

Official advice: On Thursday 12th March, the Government announced that we are moving from the Contain phase of the coronavirus action plan and into the Delay phase, in response to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Full details of each stage in the government action plan can be found here:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-action-plan>

To support the delay of the spread of the virus, the Department for Health and Social Care has asked anyone who shows certain symptoms to stay at home for 7 days, regardless of whether they have

travelled to affected areas. This means people should stay at home and avoid all but essential contact with others for 7 days from the point of displaying mild symptoms, to slow the spread of infection.

The symptoms are:

- A high temperature (37.8 degrees and above)
- A new, continuous cough

You do not need to call NHS 111 to stay at home. If your symptoms worsen during your stay at home period or are no better after 7 days contact NHS 111 online at 111.nhs.uk. If you have no internet access, you should call NHS 111. For a medical emergency dial 999.

Current advice remains in place: no education or children's social care setting should close in response to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case unless advised to do so by Public Health England.

The Chief Medical Officer has advised that the impact of closing schools on both children's education and on the workforce will be substantial, but the benefit to public health may not be. Decisions on future advice to schools will be taken based on the latest and best scientific evidence, which at this stage suggests children are a lower risk group.

Handwashing advice

The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and travelling on public transport.

Watch this short NHS film for guidance:

- <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday), 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday)

Please note, we are currently experiencing high volumes of calls and apologise for any wait that you may experience. To ensure that we answer your calls as quickly as possible we have now extended our opening hours to cover weekends.

Where to find the latest information

Updates on COVID-19:

- <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Travel advice for those travelling and living overseas:

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus>

GENERAL NOTICES:

Donations of pre-school clothing: You will have noticed our clothes rail made it out last week between the rain and hail!! If you are having a clear out and would like to donate any unwanted 0-5yrs clothing to the pre-school we would be very grateful. Money raised from the clothing sale rail is invested in the children's pre-school experience, for the garden/forest area, for crafting, for baking etc. Many thanks for your support.

Voluntary Contributions: We can't tell you how important these contributions are to the pre-school for resources that directly benefit your children. Costs in early years are increasing but funding does not at the same rate so we thank you for supporting Goudhurst Village Pre-School in this way. Since September we have received £422.50, which we have put towards art and craft materials, a wooden role play shop and wooden food to be enjoyed by all the children. Thank you for your continued support.

Clothing: With the weather set to be quite wet for the next few weeks please make sure your child is wearing warm clothing to setting and is appropriately dressed for the weather. Please also make sure your child brings a named coat for all sessions please. Your child will not be able to go outside if they do not have a coat. Named wellies (to be left at the setting), hats, and gloves would be appreciated to keep the children warm when we use our outdoor facilities. Could all children also come to setting with a spare change of clothes in a named bag. Wet wipes and nappies should also be provided in your child's bag if your child requires them.

Crisp packets: Please donate your empty crisp packets to the pre-school as part of our fundraising initiative and encourage friends and family to collect too.

Grapes / Olives & Blueberries: Please remember to cut your grapes, olives and blueberries in four. This is the current Health and Safety guidelines. They can completely block a child's airway and this is the simplest way to take away this risk. Grapes should be cut length ways at a very minimum, but in four is recommended. The same applies to any rounded soft fruits / vegetables.

Nuts and sesame: Can we remind all parents that no nuts of any kind or sesame are allowed in your child's lunch in setting.

Parking / Vicarage: The lane adjacent to the playground is the entrance to the vicarage and they are a family of four children who also have to be dropped to school etc. Please do not park in this lane as you are essentially blocking the way to a residence. We know parking can be tricky at times but do bear this in mind.

Sick Days: If your child is ill and has to take a sick day then please ring the setting asap to let us know: 01580 212777 / 07483 262753.

Future Sessions for your Child(ren): Jo Galloway is constantly juggling sessions for all our attendees to give parents the sessions they require but if you are thinking of increasing your child's sessions in the next few months and have not already spoken to Jo or Kat about which days you would like then please do so as sessions are extremely limited.

Photos of pre-school activities can be found on our Facebook page.

www.goudhurstvillagepreschool.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/GoudhurstVillagePreSchool>

Many thanks,

Jayne Russell & Jo Galloway
Goudhurst Village Pre-school
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