

# Goudhurst Village Pre-school



## NEWSLETTER

30TH NOVEMBER 2020

Twenty five days to Christmas 😊 We have almost made it to December after an interesting and challenging year and hope you have had a lovely weekend putting up your Christmas Tree and decorations if you chose this weekend to start Christmassy things! Remember the Goudhurst Advent Window starts this week, so look out for the decorated advent windows around the village which the children love searching for. This week we will be continuing with making our Christmas crafts and creating our alternative nativity which we hope you will enjoy later this month.

**New member of staff:** We are very excited to welcome Jim Collins to the pre-school team at the start of December. Jim will be with us to the end of the summer term to cover Emeline's maternity leave. He comes with a wealth of experience and enthusiasm after teaching in Vietnam and Hong Kong, after achieving a 1st class honours degree at the University of Leeds. Jim has already been into setting to visit the children and meet the staff and will be a great asset to the pre-school team. We extend a very warm welcome to Jim and hope he enjoys his time with us, before embarking on his Primary PGCE in London next September to become a qualified teacher.

**Christmas Hamper Raffle:** Thank you to everyone who has pledged and already given items for the Christmas hampers, tickets will be given out this week. If you can sell any more than you are initially given, to friends and family then please let Jo or a member of staff know as money raised is reinvested in the pre-school and goes towards new activities for your children to enjoy during their time at pre-school. We have been unable to do any of our other fundraising events this year so your support is very much appreciated.

**Primary school applications:** Do you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017? Please make sure you apply for your Primary school place by logging onto [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) before the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- Closing date for all applications - 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- National offer day - 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021 - offers sent by email after 4pm
- Date by which places must be accepted or refused or should submit a waiting list form for schools they named but were not offered - 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021
- Reallocation of any vacant spaces - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**ipads:** We were wondering if any parents had any old ipads they would be willing to donate to the pre-school for staff to record observations and for general use. Please let us know if you think you can help.

**Sickness:** If your child is showing symptoms of coronavirus please DO NOT send them into setting.

- **A high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

If your child is showing any of the above symptoms you will need to seek medical advice and get them tested. However, if you can remember a time before Covid, if your child is unwell for any reason and you would usually have kept them home then please continue to do that. This is to protect the children and staff at the pre-school and other parents and their wider families. Your co-operation in this regard is very much appreciated.

**Payments:** Please could you wherever possible during this time make payments to the pre-school by direct transfer to our bank account. (Natwest: Account No. 30090377 S/C. 60-06-18). Whilst we understand that sometimes this is not possible it would be our preference so ask that you avoid paying by cash or cheque unless it is absolutely necessary.

**Closed Facebook Page:** We have set up a new Goudhurst Village Facebook site for parents/carers and staff. If you have not joined already, we will send out the link. It will be used to share photos and events.

**Do you want to become a Trustee??:** If you think you would like to support the pre-school by becoming a Trustee then please get in touch. If you would simply like to know more then please do not hesitate to email Jayne @ [jaynegvp@gmail.com](mailto:jaynegvp@gmail.com) or text/call on 07766 553728.

#### GENERAL NOTICES:

**Parking:** Please be mindful to other users when dropping off and picking up, so parents are not blocked in when they need to do other drop offs or get to work. Please do not park in the vicarage driveway as this is in daily use.

**Goudhurst Village Play Area:** We are very lucky in Goudhurst to have a brand new play area installed during the first lockdown, funded by our wonderful community and the Parish Council. In order for the play area to remain open the parish Council ask that you adhere to social distancing guidelines and are sensible so that our community remains safe. If the play area is too busy come back another time to enjoy the space and facility.

**Clothing:** Could children come into setting with named appropriate clothing for the weather. Wellies, coats and also bring a named water bottle.

**Clothing and toy donations:** If you have any good quality pre-school clothing or toys you would like to donate to the pre-school we would be happy to receive them. The pre-school has limited fundraising capacity at the moment due to covid restrictions and use any funds raised from donations to fund our pre-school garden.

**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.

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

If you have any queries/issues at all, please make sure you speak to Jo Galloway in setting or on 01580 212777 / 07483 262753.

As well as Jo Galloway, our manager, your child's key worker and Zoe Bedford-Cooper, our business manager [zoeggvp@gmail.com](mailto:zoeggvp@gmail.com) I am always available should you wish to discuss any aspect of your pre-school experience 07766 553728 / [jaynegvp@gmail.com](mailto:jaynegvp@gmail.com) .

Many thanks,

Jayne Russell & Jo Galloway  
Goudhurst Village Pre-school  
Registered Charity No. 1152404

Jayne Russell: Chair/Trustee: [jaynegvp@gmail.com](mailto:jaynegvp@gmail.com) Tel: 07766 553728  
Jo Galloway: Manager [joannegvp@gmail.com](mailto:joannegvp@gmail.com) Tel: 07483 262753

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