



NEWSLETTER

14TH DECEMBER 2020

The staff and trustees would like to wish all our families a very Happy Christmas and a brighter, happier and more normal 2021. We have almost made it to the end of term, and we would like to thank all our parents for supporting us through what has been a challenging year in early years. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community and parent body.

I think you will join me in extending a special and heartfelt thank you to our wonderful team of staff managed by Jo. They have been incredible this year and have kept your children happy in setting through uncertain times. A huge thank you to Jo, Kat, Mary, Dee, Emily, Emeline and Zoe. Most recently also to Jim who is a great asset to the pre-school. We wish them a relaxing Christmas break.

The final week of term is packed with lots of Christmas fun:

Christmas Party - Friday 18th December: Jo will be in touch with regard to your pickup time on Friday as these will need to be staggered and has already spoken to you about the party plan. Children who usually attend Friday session will come in as normal, all other children are invited at 11am. Food will be provided and you are asked to provide a wrapped, named present for your own child.

Christmas Hamper Raffle: Thank you for all your support with our hamper raffle so far. If you still have anything for the hampers could you please get them to setting by Tuesday, as the hampers are being put together then. If you would like any more raffle tickets, please ask a member of staff. 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 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017? Please make sure you apply for your Primary school place by logging onto www.kent.gov.uk/ola before the 15th January 2021

- Closing date for all applications - 15th January 2021
- National offer day - 16th 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 - 5th May 2021
- Reallocation of any vacant spaces - 9th June 2021

Goudhurst Community Garden: Initial plans are underway for a Goudhurst Community Garden to be situated at the bottom of Lurkins Rise. Such an initiative has a wealth of social and health benefits and we are looking for people to get involved from the onset. If you are interested in finding out more please email jayneqvp@gmail.com or message 07766 553728.

Ipads: If any parents have any old ipads they would be willing to donate to the pre-school for staff to record observations and for general use it would be very much appreciated. 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 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 I am always available should you wish to discuss any aspect of your pre-school experience 07766 553728 / jaynegvp@gmail.com .

Many thanks,

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

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www.goudhurstvillagepreschool.co.uk

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