

Goudhurst Village Pre-school



NEWSLETTER

15TH NOVEMBER 2021

In the last week children at the pre-school enjoyed a variety of activities indoors with dinosaurs, cars and table-top games and spent a lot of time making music and singing. They also had great fun out on the decking with hula hoops, bubbles and playing on the bikes.



Christmas Raffle: Thank you so much to everyone that has pledged items for the hampers and pledged other prizes. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity. There are still some things left on the list to choose if you haven't pledged already.

Christmas Nativity – Save the date!

The nativity this year will take place on Wednesday 15th December in the Church. We are busy learning the songs in pre-school in the run up and I'm sure you will begin to hear children singing them at home. What a privilege it is to be able to do a Nativity this year and we are sure that parents and children alike will love it.

Are you interested in becoming a Trustee at Goudhurst Village Pre-School? It is a fun way to be part of the pre-school and guide the setting to further success. You don't have to be a parent, but just someone with enthusiasm in making the setting the best it can be. If you or anyone you know is interested, please get in touch with Jayne Russell on 07766 553728 or email jaynegvp@gmail.com for a chat or more information.

Pre-School Fee's – After lengthy discussion we have decided to increase pre-school fees to £5.75 from after Easter. (Summer term). With increasing cost of operations, including snacks, toys, books, crafts and another increase in minimum wage this will bring us more in line with local settings and allow to prosper. We hope you understand this decision.

Goudhurst Village Pre-School Closed Facebook Page: If you would like to keep up to date with what the children get up to during the day, please join our closed Facebook page where we post updates each week.

Play Visits: Play visits will resume over the next few weeks. If you would prefer meeting in the park for a play, please inform your child's Key Worker when you are asked to book a date. The play visits are an important part of your child's transition to pre-school as it allows your key worker to chat to you and see your child in their home setting or with their carer on a one-to-one basis. It also allows you to ask anything you wish to know.

Warm Coats – Could children please come into setting in a suitable coat for the weather this week as we will be going out for walks to gather Autumn leaves to make pictures with. Many thank in advance.

Second-hand toys and clothing: Thank you to all the parents that support our stall each week by donating or by buying. All donations we receive in the bucket go directly towards keeping our garden stocked and healthy, which in turn gives our children the knowledge and understanding of how things grow. We spend hours with the children in the garden and it is great to see them excited by growing their own things to eat. It is really important that children understand where things on their plate come from and how they grow, and we teach the importance of healthy eating. The garden is a fabulous learning environment, so please continue to support us by donating. A huge thanks to everyone 😊



Sessions at Pre-School: Jo, our manager spends many hours juggling sessions to accommodate everyone's needs. However, our current and future session lists are getting increasingly full, with minimal opportunity for adjustment. Our lists for September 2022 are increasing rapidly. If any of our current parents require extra sessions in the near future, it would be a good idea to speak with Jo asap as once a session is at capacity, we can no longer offer a space, except on a waiting list. Please also note that we can only accommodate children for full sessions (morning, afternoon or full day) and you will be charged accordingly, regardless of whether a child is collected early.

Forest Area: We are still working closely with the St Mary's and Diocese to reinstate the use of the area. Planning permission was granted at the end of August for temporary change of use to a Forest School and we hope to sign a licence for use in the very near future so children can enjoy this wonderful area again. We shall keep you updated.

Invoicing: Invoices for the Autumn term will be sent out by email shortly. Please be aware that the invoices may go into your junk/spam folder so it may help to add Zoe's email address zoeggvp@gmail.com to your mailing list.

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 .

GENERAL NOTICES

Nuts and sesame: Due to the risk of anaphylaxis in setting can we remind all parents that no nuts of any kind or sesame are allowed in your child's lunch in setting as we have children who suffer severe allergies if they are in contact. This is to keep everyone safe. **NO NUTELLA OR PEANUT BUTTER PLEASE!**

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.

Parking: Parking at the pre-school is limited so please be mindful of others and walk to setting if you can. Please **do not** park or block the driveway to the vicarage as it is in daily use.

Sick Days: If your child is poorly and you feel it necessary to give them calpol or any similar medication, or you are unsure if they are well enough to come to setting then as a precaution, we advise that they stay at home to rest, to protect both children and staff at setting and their wider families. There are a lot of winter colds going round at the moment, and if we can protect ourselves against the spread of these that has to be a good thing. 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.

Some of the activities from the last few weeks







In line with DFE guidance all restrictions have been lifted but hygiene protocols that were introduced during the last year will remain in place in setting. Children will wash their hands regularly and all cleaning/sanitising procedures in setting will remain unchanged.

Drop off and pick up: We have been impressed how the new timings have worked for drop off and pick up and thank everyone for their co-operation. Whilst lockdown has ended, we still need to be cautious over the coming months. Please drop off between 8.50 and 9.10 and pick up between 3.20 and 3.30. A window of time that we feel allows for school and other drop offs. We request that you do not drop outside these times as it is disruptive to sessions, unless arranged in advance with a member of staff.

Jo will continue to welcome children as they are dropped off at the main door, parents will drop at the door and will not be able to come inside the Church Rooms. This aids a prompt start to the pre-school day and is less disruptive for children. It allows our staff to settle children quickly and start the activities that the children enjoy. Once a parent has dropped off, children will be supervised during hand washing, and they will then enter the hall. Whilst waiting to drop off parents will be asked to wait by the fencing of the play area as per last term and be respectful of others in terms of social distancing. Whilst the wearing of masks is now not mandatory, we ask you to consider those around and respect individual choice.

We remind parents that they need to bring to setting:

- A named small bag or rucksack, to be brought to every session, (we can't fit them all in the storage box so bringing to each session is better than leaving with us) inside which they must bring:
 - a named water bottle for their child (to stay in setting).
 - a named sunhat (to stay in setting)
named wellies
 - a coat at all times (weather can be changeable)
 - nappies and wipes. (Wipes are requested for all children even if they are not required for toileting)
 - a spare set of clothes including socks.

Parents are requested to:

- Drop off and collect children on time.
- Ensure that children do not bring anything into pre-school (such as toys) as we are still being cautious.
- apply sunscreen before coming to setting if required

In line with last term any significant communication between staff and parents should take place via email or phone to aid drop off and pick up. Your child's Keyworker will say goodbye where it is possible.

You will be given a plastic wallet to bring to and from setting every day. Could you please make sure that these are in your child's bag for every session.

COVID:

For information and advice please see the government guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated.
- they are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Children who are aged under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts will only be advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their own household.

Staff who do not need to self-isolate, and children who usually attend the setting, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend the setting as normal.

18 year olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

We all hope that you have a fabulous first week ahead but if you have any questions, concerns or are worried about anything please speak to a member of staff, Jo, or myself.

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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