

Goudhurst Village Pre-school



NEWSLETTER

18th July 2022



We have arrived at the last week of term (4 days to go!) and as you have all heard it's going to be a very hot start to the week. Following advice from DFE and the Early Years Alliance Jo and the team have risked assessed the setting and as advised we will pay particular attention to

'the use of ventilation, keeping children hydrated, avoiding vigorous physical activity, encouraging children to wear loose, light coloured clothing and sunhats with wide brims, to use sunscreen, and providing them with plenty of water'.

Please be assured that we will do everything we can to make pre-school a fun experience in such extreme heat. We will be mainly in the woods, making sure the children are drinking plenty of water and enjoying lots of water play, and will make sure sun hats are worn.

The Trustees would like to say a very big thank you to Jo, Zoe, Kat, Mary, Dee, Emily and Sadie for their outstanding work this year, for keeping the children happy and learning through play, always with a smile and for simply being amazing. The team is what makes the pre-school such a wonderful place for children to experience. Thank you to the team and have a much deserved summer break.



Last week was a hot week! Thankfully we had lots of ways to keep cool. Under the shade of the awning, the climbing frame added to the excitement of a water obstacle course on the decking, whilst inside puzzles and board games were the perfect activity for those who wanted to take time to slow down and stay cool.

In the woods we created a spider maze while others drew with charcoal, made magic wands and some very fine fishing rods. Who'd have thought there was such good fishing to be had in our woods! The catch was so BIG but... they all got away before we could take a photo.





SPORT DAY

Sports Day and leavers ceremony – Wednesday 20th July – The weather is predicted to reduce in temperature by 10 degrees on Wednesday but will still be a very warm 25 degrees. We will make a decision on whether sports day will go ahead on Tuesday evening and communicate this to you. If it doesn't the leavers presentation will be in the hall with only the leavers parents invited to attend. If sports day does go ahead it will start at 10:00am prompt with races followed by a leaver's ceremony. Please bring a picnic and enjoy a wonderful day of fun with us. 🏃🏃🏃

Last day of term – Thursday 21st July. The party on Thursday is for all of the children. Please bring them for a 9.30am start as we have an entertainer booked. Unfortunately we will be unable to invite parents to this as space is limited. Packed lunch should be provided and pick up is between 1-1.30. Please make that you pick up no later than 1.30pm.

Trustees – Lindsay Roberts and Marie Donoghue have now stepped down as Trustees of Goudhurst Village Pre-School with immediate effect. We would like to thank them both for their incredible behind the scenes guidance and support. Lindsay has been on the committee since November 2018 and with her experience as headteacher and knowledge in education in general, she has been an invaluable Trustee, particularly through the last two years where DFE guidance was changing almost daily. Marie joined us in September 2020 and brought with her a wealth of knowledge in education and particularly specialist knowledge of SENCO.

As a pre-school we can't thank them enough for their time, support and guidance through what has been a testing time for early years. You are both amazing and we extend our heartfelt thanks to you for all that you have done over the last few years.

Chair – Since September 2017 I have been Chair of Goudhurst village pre-school and with Jo, the team and the rest of the Trustees have steered the Pre-school through some challenging times. In the last five years, with Jo at the helm as Manager the pre-school has gone from strength to strength. It is now that the pre-school is in such a healthy position that I too need to step down to spend time with my own family.

We are therefore looking for someone to take on the role of Pre-School Chair. If you are interested in supporting the pre-school, have a love of our village and what it has to offer and want to make a big difference to the pre-schoolers and their families in our community we would love to hear from you.

I will continue in the position as Chair, supporting the team until there has been a thorough handover and the committee is secure to lead the pre-school through the next academic year. Please get in touch if you are interested in joining the team of trustees, either as Chair or a trustee. I would love to hand over to the next team of wonderful people who can steer the pre-school into the future.

Contact: Jayne Russell: jaynegvp@gmail.com or call me on 07766 553728. I look forward to hearing from you.

Staffing – It is with sadness that at the end of the week we are saying goodbye to Sadie. Sadie has been a valuable member of the pre-school team, first joining to cover a maternity leave and then staying on afterwards. We would like to wish Sadie the very best of luck in her new role and her future career.

In September we are very fortunate to have Christina Bridger join the pre-school as a full time member of staff. We look forward to welcoming her to the team and her becoming part of the pre-school family.

Pre-School Fees – Due to the rising cost of running the pre-school and a statutory increase in minimum wage we will be increasing our hourly rate to £6 as of September. The committee have discussed this at length and this small increase still keeps us competitive with other settings in the area but also allows us to safeguard the settings financial future. We hope you understand this decision.

30hr Funding – We have allocated all our places for 30hr funding. This can change, but for now we can no longer accept any more children for 30hr funded places. Any queries please contact Zoe Bedford-Cooper, our business manager.

Are you interested in becoming a Trustee at Goudhurst Village Pre-School? Do you have experience in HR, finance, fundraising, websites, policies, secretarial, organising, or do you simply have a passion for our village and our growing pre-schooler population?

It is a fun way to be part of the pre-school and guide the setting to further success in the future. 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.

Covid-19 – At the end of March the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, set out the next steps for living with COVID-19 in England.

Free Covid tests will continue to be available for specific groups, including eligible patients and NHS staff.

Guidance advises:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature.
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days.

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.

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

Important Notice regarding sun cream – Can everyone please check that the sun cream they are applying to their child does not have any almond oil in it. Nivea products do!

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.

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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