

Goudhurst Village Pre-school



NEWSLETTER

WEEK BEGINNING 27TH MARCH 2023



As we enter the last week of term the signs of spring are eventually showing, all be it still a little cold. We wish you all a very Happy Easter and some family memory making moments during the break.

As you are all aware we were visited by Kelly from Ofsted last Thursday and will communicate the outcome as soon as we have our inspection report. We would like to thank all the parents who commented and spoke to the inspector about our provision and to receive such positive and complimentary feedback was wonderful, so thank you again.

As Chair I would like to thank Jo for her dedication to the pre-school as Manager in making the setting and experience for the children a truly wonderful one. The pre-school would not get such fabulous praise without the work of our amazing staff, Kat, Mary, Dee, Emma, Christina and Amy. I think you will join me in thanking every one of them for their hard work this term and every term.

The pre-school only runs as smoothly as it does with teamwork, so I also extend a big thank you to our Business Manager Zoe who works tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure that everything runs as it should.

As you are all aware the pre-school is a charity (CIO) and our Trustees work behind the scenes to make sure that the pre-school is compliant, and oversee the running. Behind the scenes a lot of work is carried out to make sure we made it through lockdown and that we continue to prosper despite hardships and low levels of funding for early years. I would like to thank our Trustees past and present for all that you continue to do.

I am sure you are also aware that after five and a half years I am stepping down as Chair this Friday (31st), so this will be my last newsletter to you, as I hand this newsletter over to Minty. I will continue to support our Trustees in transition behind the scenes. I would like to thank Jo and the team, Zoe, all of the Trustees over my time with the pre-school for making the pre-school a truly lovely experience for the children of our community and also you as parents for continuing to support the setting and sending your children here. I leave the pre-school in a very good place and in very good hands and wish it continued success.

Term Dates: We will finish for the Easter Holidays at 1.30pm this Friday 31st March and return back on Monday 17th April.
Easter Holidays are from Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April.

Last week, with the start of Spring, we planted lots of different seeds to grow in our garden. We made sure they had water and really hope the sun will shine soon so they begin to grow.

The children climbed, slid, swung, took turns and had a fun time playing with their friends in the play park too.



This coming week the children will enjoy lots of Easter fun by making Easter art and crafts.



Sponsored Bunny Bounce: Reminder – We have our Bunny Bounce this Friday 31st March.
Normal drop off for Friday children. Other children 10-12 for a bounce and Easter egg hunt, and bonnet competition.
Any donations of small eggs would be greatly received. Thank you to those already donated.

Strep A and other illnesses: Please read the attached NHS information and if you have any concerns about your child's health please speak to your GP or NHS 111. [Strep A – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

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 will be a lot of winter colds going round, 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 before they are due to come in to let us know: 01580 212777 / 07483 262753.

TRUSTEES: IMPORTANT NOTICE!! WE NEED YOU!! WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE NEW TRUSTEES TO JOIN THE TEAM!

Would you, your parents, friends, or family be interested in joining the committee?? Are you interested in guiding our village pre-school forward on its path of success? The pre-school is a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), which is good news for trustees as it limits personal liability. Please get in touch if you feel you can offer the time to join the team.

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.

Amazon Wish List: If you would like to contribute to the pre-school, we have set up a wish list of resources and items that would be really useful in setting and could be enjoyed by all the children. Please have a look at the link below and purchase what you feel you can: http://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1DUYMW2J15A17?ref_=wl_share

Funding: We currently have no availability for 30hr funding. If you are looking and are eligible, please speak to Zoe to go on our waiting list for a place. Please look at the childcare choice's website if you think you're entitled to funding other than the universal 15hrs, and it will help you work out what is available to you.

[Childcare Choices | 30 Hours Free Childcare, Tax-Free Childcare and More | Help with Costs | GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-choices-30-hours-free-childcare-tax-free-childcare-and-more-help-with-costs)

Please also speak to our Business Manager Zoe if you have any queries and she can try and help.

Voluntary Contributions: The pre-school is very grateful to those parents who have paid their voluntary contributions over the last two terms. This term we have received £349 so far, out of £1,320 invoiced. The pre-school will be spending these contributions on resources and equipment and items for our outdoor areas, we will let you know the specifics once they have been ordered.

Voluntary Contribution payments received each term are set aside and used directly to buy pre-school equipment and resources that we would otherwise not be able to afford. These contributions are directly to benefit your child's pre-school experience with us and each term we will tell you how much has been received and what we have invested it in for your children. Many thanks for continuing to support us in this way.

Allergies and lunch safety: We have many children who attend pre-school that are all different and who can be allergic to many different things so we have very strict rules. Please be reminded of the following:

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, HOUMOUS 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.

Drop off and pick up times: Drop off time in the morning is between 8.50 – 9.10 / Pick up time is between 3.20 – 3.30.

Lunchtime drop off and pick up is 12.00 or 1.00 prompt.

If you would like to drop or pick up at any other time this needs to be arranged in advance with Jo or Kat.

We hope you understand that these are very busy times for our staff and can be unsettling for children hence we do not allow parents into the church rooms during drop off but you are welcome to come in when collecting your child.

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.

Our pre-school team: Our team, Jo, Kat, Mary, Dee, Christina, Emma, Amy and of course our business manager Zoe are fabulous, and they make your child's experience in setting the best it can be each day. Please talk to Jo, Kat or your child's key worker if you have anything you would like to discuss regarding your child's day in setting.

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

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.

Many thanks,
Jayne Russell & Jo Galloway
Goudhurst Village Pre-school

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