



# Buckden Pre-School Playgroup

A place for Children to grow, to learn and to flourish

Registered Charity No. 291840

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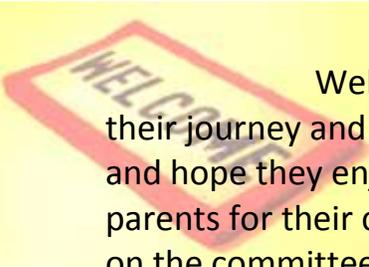
[www.buckdenpreschool.co.uk](http://www.buckdenpreschool.co.uk)



**Reflecting on Quality**  
*committed to improvement*

## Newsletter – July 2014

### Preschool roundup



Well here we are the time has come for our school leavers to move on in their journey and start the next chapter in their lives. We wish them all the very best and hope they enjoy all the new challenges ahead. We would like to thank all the parents for their continued support in all areas of the preschool and for those staying on the committee to ensure we can keep running a MASSIVE THANKYOU! For those of you whose children are staying on please do consider joining the committee, it can be a very rewarding role and we are dependent on you in order to keep the preschool open.

#### A few reminders:

- Please ensure you are on time for dropping off and picking up your children. Late arrivals in the morning can be disruptive and mean that children miss out on registration and late pickups can cause distress as well as problems with the adult/child ratios.
- If your child is not going to be attending a session for any reason we would really appreciate a text or phone call to let us know.
- **Can you please ensure your fees are paid on time**, we are reliant on the fees to pay our overheads and so when fees are late we are then late paying.



Many thanks for your cooperation with these.

- Can you please name all clothing, hats, lunch boxes, bottles etc so we can clearly identify who they belong to



The trip to Hinchingsbrooke Country Park was a huge success and enjoyed by all. There was pond dipping and den building and a visit to the bees in the apiary. A very big thank you to Miss Sam for organising the trip and to both Miss Sam and Miss Sammy for hosting the day



For those of you whose children will be staying for lunch in September can we please ask that you use a small lunch box/bag as we have limited space in the fridge and some of the lunch bags are quite big. Can you also ensure that lunch boxes and bottles are clearly named. On the subject of lunch are you struggling with what to put in, how much and what? Why not have a look at the following links for some ideas on healthy packed lunches...

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/childhealth6-15/Pages/Lighterlunchboxes.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-lunchbox-picnic.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/healthy-eating-tips.aspx>

<http://letsgetcookingathome.org.uk/get-cooking/perfect-packed-lunches>



Can we please ask that when you drop your children off in the morning you let them come in on their own whenever possible, if they need your support or you need to speak to a member of staff can you please do so as quietly as possible in order to minimise disruption to registration. There have been a couple of occasions where parents have stood chatting in the preschool when we are trying to do the register and welcome the children in for the day and this is really distracting for both children and staff. Can we also ask that when you arrive to pick up your children if you do so early you remain out of sight of the doors as some children become upset when they see theirs or other parents. Many thanks for your support on this.

## Term dates

**Professional Day** : Wednesday 3rd September

**Autumn Term Opens** : Thursday 4th September

**Professional Day** : Friday 24th October

**Half Term** : 27th - 31st October

**Autumn Term Closes** : Friday 19th December

### 2015

**Spring Term Opens**: Tuesday 6th January

**Half Term**: 16th - 20th February

**Spring Term Closes**: Friday 27th March

**Summer Term Opens**: Monday 13th April

**May Day**: Monday 4th May

**Half Term**: 25th – 29th May

**Summer Term Closes**: Friday 17th July

**Professional Day:** Monday 20th July

**Professional Day:** Tuesday 21st July

**Professional Day:** Wednesday 22nd July

## **Committee Roundup**

The committee have had a very hard but fantastic year!! The Pre-School made a loss in profits two years ago; but through extremely hard work and being very strict with spending the Pre-School, at the end of this financial year will have covered costs and built up the emergency reserves account. This is purely down to the hard work of the committee members, committee and Pre-School fundraising, support from the Pre-School Alliance Business Officer and also the support, hard work and understanding of staff members. A special thank you to Treasurers Claire & Elaine, and Geoff (wages).

In terms of staff structure, many of you will know that the Pre-School Supervisor left in January, this prompted a re-thinking of the Pre-School's needs and a Manager was sought to look afresh at the Preschool and make changes in readiness for the next Ofsted visit. Michelle has worked tirelessly since February and has not only re-organised the Pre-Schools' daily structure and activities, but has also worked very hard behind the scenes to ensure that the settings' operational plans, administration and legal requirements are revised and up-to-date. Changes in staff structure can sometimes be unsettling but with the addition of Denise and Alison being made permanent staff members, all staff members (Michelle, Sam, Estelle, Sammy, Alison & Denise) have done their up-most to embrace the changes and to ensure that the children on every day of attendance have had a stimulating, fun and personal experience.

Thank you for filling out the Pre-Schools' questionnaire; I hope you have had time to read the comments given back to you a few weeks ago. These comments were very positive and prove that parents and children can see and are positively affected by the changes brought into the setting.

A major part of our financial stability is because of the committee's fundraising led by Vikki Brooks and the amazing "helpers": the Pre-School would not be able to function without these events and also thank you to all parents, carers and their family and friends whom have supported these events throughout the year. A huge special thank you to the Buckden May Ball committee, the ball was a fantastic success and raised £1,000 for Pre-School (as well as £1,000 for Magpas!). A mixture of committee members (Claire, Elaine, Vikki B) and village members (Vikki Taylor, Jules Woodmore, Angie Farrer and Justine Barratt Clark). Also, a thank you to Sam Hardy for Pre-School

fundraising through competitions and for the new and exciting ideas that Sam brings in for children to get involved while raising money for Pre-School.

Few more thank you's: Pre-School administration and paper work is endless: Sonia keeps it all (and me!) in check, to Alison for taking over the Buckden Roundabout column from Sonia, to Jules for designing an amazing website and all the design work that goes into media flyers and advertising over the past year, and to Angie Farrer for help with flyers and adverting as well!! To Helen (and Mother) for help at events, and to one of our new committee members Lyndsey for help with revising all 58 Pre-School policies.

Geoff is helping with the final wage run and will then step down from the committee (huge thank you for your help over the past few years!!) Other members whom will be stepping down at the AGM in November include Claire, Elaine, Vikki, Helen and myself as Chairperson. I am very pleased that Lyndsey Jolly and Kate Gallimore have already joined. I have spoken to a few people about joining the committee: the amount of time involved depends on time of the year etc and job being done; the committee is good fun, very social, very good for your CV and rewarding to be a part of your child's Pre-School. We will need a Treasurer (or split between two people), fundraisers, help with media/ marketing and a Chairperson (which can also be a relative or village member).

Please have a think and email me if you would like more information: [cozzafish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cozzafish@yahoo.co.uk). If we do not get new committee members, though the charity commission & Pre-School constitution we will not be able to open, so please consider! Have a brilliant summer break and good luck to all of the pre-schooler's in September!!  
Corrine Emeleus.