



September 2023

Winnersh Primary School, Greenwood Grove, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 5LH
Tel: 0118 979 7580 email: greenwood@weycp.org.uk

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new year! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer.

We are so impressed with how well the children have settled in, especially our new families. We would like to welcome Penny, Elise, Alfie, Avyana, Tia, Sreyan, Sophie, Casey, Minha, Ashlei-Quinn and Baani.

Please remember that we have an "Open Door" policy and are happy to answer any questions or concerns. Feel free to email, phone or post a message on Tapestry. We will get back to you as soon as possible. I am usually in the office on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Drop off and Pick up

Thank you for using our gate on Poplar Lane.

Please note that the gate is open for morning drop off from 8:45am–9am. Please can all children who are going home at the end of the morning session be collected promptly at 11:45am. The staff have a very short period to get ready for the afternoon session and have their lunch break which they are not paid for.

The gate will be opened at 12:30pm for the afternoon session, please can the children be dropped off promptly at 12:30pm so we can start the afternoon session as soon as possible. The gate will be closed at 12:35pm.

In the afternoon, the gate is open at 3:15pm and closed at 3:30pm.

Please note that if children are regularly collected late, we will have to charge you a late fee which is £10 for every 10 minutes that you are late.

Friday afternoons

We have very low numbers on a Friday afternoon, if you would like your child to attend please let me know ASAP. If your child is already using their allocated funding, extra sessions are £16 per session. Please note there is no lunch club on these days so children are unable to stay all day.

Safeguarding

Greenwood is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and we expect all staff, volunteers, visitors and external agencies to share this commitment. Should you have any concerns please speak to Mrs K Bull, Designated Safeguarding Lead or myself.

Please can all children bring in a rain coat each day, clearly named. We try to use our outdoor space as much as possible in all weather conditions!

We have also noticed we are missing a few water bottles, please can you make sure your child has a named water bottle that can be left at Greenwood.

Internet Safety

For support and practical advice on how to keep your children safe online, please visit www.internetmatters.org
From age-specific online safety checklists to guides on how to set parental controls on a range of devices, you'll find a host of practical tips to help children get the most out of their digital world.

TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2023

Tues 5th Sept – Fri 20th Oct 2023

Half Term: Mon 24th Oct – Fri 27th Oct 2023

Monday 30th Oct – Friday 15th Dec 2023

Close at 11:45am on Friday 15th Dec.

Christmas Holidays: Mon 18th Dec 2023 – Mon 1st Jan 2024

Spring Term 2024

INSET DAY: Tues 2nd Jan 2024 (Closed)

Wed 3rd Jan – Fri 9th Feb 2024

Half Term: Mon 12th Feb – Fri 16th Feb 2024

Mon 19th Feb – Wed 27th Mar 2024

Close at 11:45am On Wed 27th Mar.

INSET DAY: Thurs 28th Mar 2024 (Closed)

Easter Holidays: Friday 29th March – Friday 12th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

Mon 15th April – Fri 24th May 2024

Bank Holiday Mon 6th May 2024 (CLOSED)

Half Term: Mon 27th May – Fri 31st May 2024

INSET DAY: Monday 3rd Jun 2024 (CLOSED)

Tuesday 4th June – Friday 23rd July 2024

Close at 11:45am on Friday 23rd July



For those that may not know, The Greenwood Pre-school is a Committee run pre-school, although principally most duties are now assigned to me, as the appointed manager and 'nominated person'. This means that although most tasks and the main running of the pre-school are carried out by me, parents are required to volunteer to be appointed to our Committee. The Committee is now mainly for ensuring the pre-school is running effectively, is involved with any major decisions and organising all the fundraising events during the year. We are hoping to create a fundraising committee and will send out a separate letter.

We are in the process of changing over to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) which means we can keep the same committee each year, under the old structure, we had to change the committee yearly.

Our next committee meeting is **at 7:30pm on Tuesday 19th September at Greenwood**. Parents are welcome to attend.

THE SHED DOOR

Don't forget to check The Shed Door. Here you will find uniform order forms, waiting list forms, copies from articles that we think you might find interesting/helpful, paper copies of permission slips that we have sent out and you will also find the parent rota sign up.

The information that we legally have to display is on a notice board on the side of the shed.



The Greenwood Library

The Greenwood Library has previously been very popular. Mrs Persaud is busy updating it and it will be out on display very soon. There is a small selection of books available by the shed for children to borrow. Each book will be in a folder with a book mark which show a range of prompts and questions, they are perfect for developing children's reading skills, interest and enjoyment of books.

We ask that you record in the note book the following:

- Number on the folder
- Child's name
- Date taken out
- Date returned

If there are any particular books that your child enjoys reading at Greenwood and they would like to share them at home with you, please ask a member of staff and we will see what we can do.



In an emergency: **always call 999** if you can't speak, call 999 and dial 55.
In a non-emergency: **Call 101** or **make a report online on our website.**

Family Photo's & Guess Who!

For the past few years we have had a Family Photo display and photo album. The children love talking about the photos and sharing them with their peers.

We would love it if you could either send in a family photo with your child or email it to me. We will then add it to our display and photo album.

We also love playing Guess Who!

Please email 5 interesting facts about your child to this address.

Once we have a few, we will read out the facts and see if the children can recognise themselves before anyone else does!

E.g

I have a pet

My favourite colour is

I love

My best friend is called

My nickname is

Puzzle Lending Library



A few of the children enjoyed taking a puzzle home last term. We will have puzzles for the children to borrow in the Greenwood Library. We would love it if you could share a picture on Tapestry of your child completing the task. This is a great way to develop children's skills in lots of different areas, especially speech and language. We do understand that bits do get lost, please let us know if any pieces are missing. We ask that you keep the puzzle packs at home for a maximum of 7 days (apart from holidays) and that all puzzles are returned complete.

Snacks

We are always grateful for any donations of the following for the children to share at snack time.

We have a maximum of 26 children per session

Any fresh fruit or vegetable (that can be eaten raw)

Bagels, Bread, Crackers, Bread sticks, Muffins, Teacakes, Oatcakes, Crumpets, Rice cakes, Melba Toast, Pittas, Cheese, Cheese spread, Cheese Strings, tzaiki, salsa (very mild), thousand island dip, guacamole, Yoghurts, Fromage Frais.

We would like to promote health eating so please avoid anything that is high in salt or sugar.

Please make sure that all items are nut free as we have a child with a nut allergy.



If your child has borrowed a change of clothes, we would be grateful if you could wash and return them as soon as possible.



Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 19th September: Committee Meeting 7:30pm at Greenwood

Thursday 21st September: Music with Heather (pm)

Tuesday 26th September: ABC Sports (am)

Thursday 5th October: Music with Heather (am)

Tuesday 10th October: ABC Sports (am)

Thursday 19th October: Music with Heather (pm)

Mon 23rd October –Friday 27th October: Closed—Half Term

Tuesday 31st October: ABC Sports (pm)

Fancy Dress Day

Monday 6th November: Fun morning & Sponsored Bounce (Letter to be sent out nearer the time)

Thursday 9th November: Music with Heather (am)

Tuesday 14th November: ABC Sports (pm)

Thursday 23rd November: Music with Heather (pm)

Monday 27th November: Photographer in for Christmas Photoshoot.

Tuesday 28th November: ABC Sports (pm)

Thursday 7th December: Music with Heather (am)

Tuesday 12th December: Christmas Party (Letter to be sent out separately)

Friday 15th December: Last day of term: Close at 11:45am.

Communications

Greenwood Website

Please visit the Greenwood Pre-school Website:
www.thegreenwoodpreschool.co.uk which gives up to date information on the pre-school.

If you do have any queries then please ask a member of staff.

Facebook

All parents are invited to join the Greenwood Facebook group "Greenwood Pre-school, Winnersh (Parents Group)". This is a closed group for information and question/answer purposes. Please do not post pictures other Greenwood children.

Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts

Don't forget to protect your children's own clothes by investing in one of Greenwood's sweatshirts or polo shirts. For security and identification purposes all children are required to wear Greenwood sweatshirts on any school trips. Painting Bags are also available and are great for taking children's work and letters home.

Sweatshirts £9.50

Polo shirts £9.00

T-shirts £6.00

Baseball Hats £4.50

Legionnaires Hats £5.00

Painting Bag £5.00

Order forms will be available in the shed door!

Parent Stay and Play—SIGN UP NOW

The Parent Rota is now up on the Shed Door. It is open to parents (both Mummy & Daddy) or grandparents, whose child has been at Greenwood for a half term. Sometimes, if your child has been unsettled at pre-school, staff might delay asking you to participate in the rota at that particular time.

We would ask all parents to sign up to 2 half day sessions per term, if at all possible. Please ensure that this is a session your child attends. Coming in on parent rota is a positive experience both for the child and parent. Children enjoy showing their parents what they do when they are here and it is equally important for parents as they see what happens during the session and get a greater understanding of what the children are doing. We understand that it is often difficult when parents work and have such busy lives but it really is a worthwhile opportunity for both you and your child.

Unfortunately, at the present time, no siblings are able to attend the session. We understand that this can cause problems with childcare for siblings, but accidents with younger siblings can and do happen and also parent rota is considered a special time for you and your pre-school child to share if at all possible.

Parking

If you come to pre-school by car, please follow the parking restrictions and keep footpaths clear ensuring those with wheelchairs and pushchairs are able to get by.

Please also avoid parking in front of the gate to drop off or pick up.



Illness and Absence

There have been lots of illnesses this term. Thank you for keeping us informed so that we can let others know. Please can I remind you to let us know if your child will not be attending a session and the reasons why. You can let us know via email: greenwood@weycp.org.uk or leave a message on 01189797580.



In the Moment Planning at Greenwood

Following the changes to the EYFS in September 2021, we introduced some different types of furniture and resources in Greenwood. This is all due to our newfound passion of loose parts play and the curiosity approach to learning. This leads us nicely into “In the moment planning” which is the way we are heading with regards to our planning and assessment process.

We have been looking at this new approach for a while now and feel it would allow us to make a real difference to the children’s learning by seizing the moments when children first show interest and curiosity and immediately supporting their next steps.

Planning in the moment is nothing new, it is exactly what a responsive parent does every day with their child, it is also exactly what a skilful practitioner has always done. Every time an adult looks and listens to a child, they are assessing and planning how to respond. The adult will be considering whether they can add anything in the moment to benefit the child (teachable moment). If so, they will respond and interact accordingly.

How is it achieved?

The setting is organised so that each child can decide where to go, inside or outside, which resources to use, whether to be alone or with others and for how long they want to pursue an activity. By doing this they become deeply involved in their task and progress is happening constantly. However their level of involvement may drop for a variety of reasons :they may not know what to do or how to do something , or how to use a piece of equipment , another child may be disrupting their play or they may need something adding. When this happens, the child will seek help either from another child or an adult. This is when a skilful practitioner would step in and assess what is needed for the child to carry on. This is what we would call a teachable moment. These moments will either be recorded as observations or WOW moments.

We endeavour to keep paperwork to a manageable level so that practitioners time will be spent interacting with the children. We will be focusing on specific children every week and if it is your child’s focus week you will know before hand and be asked to contribute to their learning. Please ensure you contribute as much as possible.

One way to help us keep paperwork to a manageable level is to make sure we are only writing meaningful and useful observations and WOW moments. Writing lots of observations becomes repetitive and they often do not serve any real purpose. At the end of your child’s focus week we will post all observations we have made and links to the areas of learning for parents to view. If it is not your child’s focus week then please be reassured that lots of learning is still taking place as the environment will be carefully planned according to their needs and interests. We will still post WOW moments on Tapestry as they occur. We would encourage parents to do the same and continue to post photos or notes about learning that is happening away from Greenwood to help us build a complete picture of the child.

We feel sure that In the Moment Planning is the best way for us to go and if we all work together each child will flourish. We are more than happy to talk with you about all of this, please feel free to ask.



Tapestry

I hope you are all enjoying seeing what the children are up to on Tapestry.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is predominantly assessed by making observations of a child's learning, taking photographs and collecting examples of work. It is from these observations that we are able to plan our activities and the next steps for your child.

Children are learning all the time in all the activities they do, both at pre-school, at home and within other activities they may take part in such as swimming, dancing, music classes etc.

We want to know about your child's achievements and their learning journey outside of pre-school and would like to ask parents to get involved with collecting observations of their child's learning.

Please see below a link to show you how to add observations on Tapestry . Apart from when its your child's focus week, they do not have to be completed on a weekly or a once termly basis, but should be done as and when a situation arises or you feel you want to let us know just how well your child is learning.

Observations in general should be positive and should describe what a child has done as opposed to what they can't do. These may range from writing their name, being able to count, recognise or write some numbers, recognising and matching colours and shapes to being able to eat with a knife and fork, pedal a trike, sleeping in their own bed through the night or eating some vegetables!

Do not be daunted by the thought of making such an observation, a photograph or picture that a child has done at home is just as valuable.

These observations do not replace those taken at pre-school but are an added bonus, after all your children spend the vast majority of their time with you. You as parents, at this stage, in their lives are their main educators. Our jobs are about working in partnership with parents to plan the next steps for their children.

To add an observation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=espJ96TJHV8>

If you haven't already, please do up date your childs About Me page on Tapestry. The following link explain how to can do this:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxo3au-993Q>