

NEWSLETTER 1 – 5th January 2017

Happy New Year to all of you!

We hope that you all had a wonderful break and are looking forward to 2017!

A big welcome to the new families who are joining us in Pre-School and Nursery – we hope you will soon feel settled, but please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything you are unsure of.



The staff have asked me to thank all of you for your kind wishes and generous presents at the end of term!

New Year Resolutions?

- Please always telephone us if your child is unwell and will not be coming to school. This helps us to keep our registers accurate. Parents of nursery children should telephone 672531, Pre-School should telephone 679500.
- Remember to send in book bags and coats every day. We go outside, even if it is cold and raining!
- Please ensure that all of your children's clothing is named – particularly coats, hats, scarves, gloves and SWEATSHIRTS. We cannot return un-named clothing! Please consider sewing gloves onto elastic attached to cuffs. This way your child will never have cold hands outside or lose their gloves.
- Please DO NOT send your child into school with lace up shoes. They cannot manage these themselves and we want your children to be as independent as possible whilst at school.
- Please make sure all money sent to the office is in a named envelope and is placed in either post box; one outside the main school office and one outside the Pre-School door. We will not accept loose cash in the office.
- A reminder that all parents should give 2 week's notice to change and cancel booked sessions e.g. lunch club, wraparound, Pre-School sessions.
- Please do not park on the yellow lines outside school or across neighbour's driveways. We have to deal with numerous complaints and it puts a strain on our relationship with them.
- **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ALWAYS BOLT AND USE THE TOP LATCH ON THE GATE. Even if you see another parent approaching – it only takes a second for a child to slip out.**

School contribution

We ask every free funded child to contribute £2 a week, (or £12 for the first half of the Spring Term) to our special treats fund. Please put your money in a **named and sealed envelope** in the post box outside the school office or Pre-School room. Thank you. *This contribution pays for the daily fruit, cooking ingredients, playdough ingredients and lots of other treats for the children!*

URGENT Reminder - Reception place applications

Don't forget if you haven't already applied for a reception place for your child for September 2017 you need to do this by **15th January 2017** at the latest.

Late applications will only be able to choose from schools that have places left so will have a limited choice.

Apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/admissions or come in and see us if you need further details.

Nursery Parent/Staff consultations

For children who joined **Nursery in Sep 2016** parent/staff consultations will take place towards the end of the Spring Term (W/B 20th March) when staff will be discussing the progress your child has made. Staff will arrange an individual appointment with you nearer the time.

Applying for a Nursery place for September 2017

If your child was born between 1st Sep 2013 and 31 Aug 2014 you need to apply for a nursery place for them to start from Sep 2017. **This is the case even if your child is currently in our Pre-School class.**

Applications open 6th February 2017 and close 17th March 2017. Please see the diary dates below for four occasions we will be offering showaround sessions for potential entrants.

You should shortly receive a letter from Herts County Council through the post with full details.

Everbridge - Closure information system - see letter sent 20th December 2016

Hertfordshire County Council has changed their notification system used to inform parents of school closures during severe weather or in an emergency.

The decision as to whether or not to stay open during bad weather is never an easy one to make and depends on a number of factors:

- Are there enough staff in school to adequately supervise the children?
- Is the school warm enough, will it remain so and is it safe for the children to be here?

We liaise with Kingsway Infants and Junior Schools so that we are all trying to do the same, but this does depend on individual circumstances.

Please DO NOT BLOCK the telephone line to ask if we are open – sign up for the Everbridge notification system and you will receive a direct message from them.

Staff make every effort to get into school and they will be trying to phone in to let us know how far away they are. If we do not hear from staff with their expected time of arrival then we will have to close the school.

You are invited to sign up for the new system called Everbridge by following the link below:

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736725489#/login>

Each contact can register up to 2 devices for each communication type (SMS and e-mail). If you have children at more than one school you can register for each school in a single registration process by selecting all schools your children attend.

Once registered, you will receive messages direct from Everbridge relating to the status of your school/schools.

This system will be used in conjunction with Wisepay already used in school.

Exciting events for the Spring Term 2017

We have a number of exciting events planned for the Spring Term 2017 in which you can take part in with your child. Please make every effort to join us for some of them as your child loves to see you in school!

Please see below in the diary dates for full details.

The first two are:

Writing workshop information session for Nursery parents on Thursday 2nd February

Open sessions for Nursery and Pre-School parents on Friday 10th February



SPRING TERM 2017 Forthcoming diary dates:

Date	Time	Event	Place
Tuesday 17th January	10.30 - 11.15	Baby Rhyme Time re-starts	Staffroom
Thursday 2nd February	10.30 and 12.30	Writing workshop information session for Nursery parents	Staffroom
Tuesday 7th February	10am	Nursery showarounds for potential entrants from September 2017	Nursery classroom and outside
Friday 10th February	8.30-10am or 12.30-2pm	Open sessions for parents - theme of 'Becoming a Writer'	Children in own classrooms
Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February - SCHOOL CLOSED - HALF TERM			
Monday 20th February	2pm	Nursery showarounds for potential entrants from September 2017	Nursery classroom and outside
w/b Monday 27th February	To be arranged	Parents/carers invited in to read to children	Nursery/Pre-School classrooms
Thursday 2nd March	WORLD BOOK DAY - come dressed as a character		
Friday 3rd March	5.30 to 6.30	Bedtime story session - come in pyjamas and bring your teddy!	Nursery/Pre-School classrooms
Thursday 9th March	10am	Nursery showarounds for potential entrants from September 2017	Nursery classroom and outside
Friday 10th March	8.30-10am or 12.30-2pm	Open sessions for parents - theme of 'Mathematics'	Children in own classrooms
Wednesday 15th March	2pm	Nursery showarounds for potential entrants from September 2017	Nursery classroom and outside
Friday 17th March	Deadline to apply for a maintained school Nursery place to start in September 2017		
w/b Monday 20th March	By appointment	Parent/staff consultations for those Nursery children who joined in Sep 2016	Staffroom
Friday 24th March	11am and 12.30pm	Mother's Day celebration	Nursery classroom
Friday 31st March	Last day of Spring Term. School open 10-12 noon. Theatre production of 'The Gruffalo'		
SCHOOL CLOSED from Monday 3rd April until we re-open on Tuesday 18th April 2017			

SPRING TERM 2017

January 2017	
Thursday 5th January	TERM STARTS
February 2017	
Monday 13th February - Friday 17th February	HALF TERM
March 2017	
Friday 31st March	END OF TERM open 10-12pm
EASTER BREAK MONDAY 3rd APRIL – MONDAY 17TH APRIL	

SUMMER TERM 2017

April 2017	
Tuesday 18 TH April	TERM STARTS - children back
May 2017	
Monday 1st May	May Day - school closed
Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June	HALF TERM
June 2017	
Friday 30th June	STAFF TRAINING DAY - school closed
July 2017	
Thursday 20th July	END OF TERM open 10-12pm
Friday 21 st July	STAFF TRAINING DAY - school closed
Monday 24 th July	STAFF TRAINING DAY - school closed

Please keep this information below – just in case it is needed!

Kingswood Early Years Centre has **only had to close for one afternoon** due to snow over the last six winters. However, there are a number of factors that we have to take into account, the main ones being:

- Are there enough staff in school to adequately supervise the children, ensuring that we follow the legal Ofsted adult/child ratios?
- Is the school warm enough, will it remain so and is it safe for the children to be here?
- Is there guidance we need to follow from Herts County Council and general weather warnings saying the situation is likely to get more severe?

We liaise with Kingsway Infants and Juniors so that we are all trying to do the same, but this does depend on individual circumstances.

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