

# Woodlands Nursery Newsletter October 2019



*Dear Parents and Carers,*

*We are delighted to share with you this term's newsletter. We have had a very busy first term of this year. It has been lovely to have our returning children back and they have been a great help to our new children. We are establishing daily routines within the nursery and the children are making good progress in picking these up. Our new group mascots have been really well received by the children who look forward to the opportunity to have a cuddle with Freddy the Fox, Beaky the Woodpecker, Lola the Badger and Gavin the Hedgehog.*

*We look forward to working in partnership with you to help and support our children to be the very best that they can be and look forward to building relationships with you over the coming session.*

*Lynne Egan  
Depute Head Teacher*

## **Staffing News**

We have welcomed Miss Sheila Wilson (Early Years Practitioner) and Mrs Zuzana Kollarova (Pupil Support Worker) to the nursery team this year.

## **Safe and Considerate Parking Around the School and Nursery**

We frequently highlight to parents and carers the importance of safe and considerate parking around our school and nursery. During these months of potential weather hazards, please leave additional time for your car journey to nursery and be **safety aware at all times** when parking near the building.

We would also ask that you consider the residents around the school and nursery when parking, dropping off or collecting. We continue to have frequent complaints from local residents who have had their driveways blocked and would ask you to refrain from doing this.

**The school car park is for staff parking only.** Please do not use the car park for drop off/collection. There is one disabled space available, we would ask that you only park here if you are displaying a "Blue Badge" and again, please only park here for dropping off or collecting, and not for extended periods.

### **Medication in School**

Please inform our school office or a member of the nursery team if your child has medical needs, or needs to take medication in nursery and also if there are any changes to dosage or medicines. If your child requires medication you will be given a form to fill in and sign, and medication will be stored safely. If you need a form, please contact the school office or forms are available on our school website (<https://stjohnogilvie.westlothian.org.uk>)

**Please note that medication must be in the original box with the pharmacy label stating name/dosage etc. clearly displayed.**

### **Allergies/Home packed lunches**

We have a number of allergies amongst our community and we ask you, therefore, not to include any of the following items in packed lunches:

**products containing strawberry or flavourings; products containing kiwi or flavourings; products containing nuts.**

We would take precautions to ensure that your child does not come into contact with anything which could impact on their health and ask you to show others the same courtesy. Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Celebration of birthdays**

We recognise that birthdays are big events for our children and are happy to celebrate with them. However, in line with health promotion and food allergies, please do not send sweets or cakes for children to distribute/have at nursery. Anything sent in will be returned to home.

### **Reporting your child's absence**

We would ask all parents/carers to contact our school office on **(01506) 412560** or to text our Groupcall number **(07860 049776 - nursery)** to report if your child is going to be absent. West Lothian Council policy advises that parents should contact us to inform of an absence as early as possible. If no contact has been made, a Groupcall message will be sent asking parents to get in touch with the school.

If we are unable to make contact with parents or carers, Head Teachers are required to make the decision about whether to contact NHS Health visiting team to seek support in contacting families to ensure that children are safe. These measures are in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and it is of great importance that parents contact our office if your child is not attending. Please either state that your child will be off for a specified number of days, or contact us on **each day** of absence. We appreciate your co-operation.

Please note the following NHS guidelines regarding absence.

*Main points:*

- *Any child who is unwell should not attend regardless of whether they have a confirmed infection*
- *Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should be excluded until they have no symptoms for 48 hours following their last episode*
- *Children with unexplained rashes should be considered infectious until assessed by a doctor*

### **Children's Belongings**

Please assist staff by naming all items of clothing clearly with your child's name. We would ask that all children have a pair of indoor shoes to change into. These do not have to be gym rubbers but **should not** be slippers. A pair of trainers that are no longer being worn at home will be fine. Please come and speak to us if you need help in providing these.

### **October holiday family challenge**

A reminder that the nursery is closed for the October break from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October with nursery pupils resuming on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. To keep everyone busy over the break, you can take part in our family challenge! Try to complete 4 tasks from the grid below. If you can, send us a photograph or a tweet when you complete an activity. You can tweet us here: @WLWoodlandsELC

Watch a family movie together	Go for a walk to spot signs of Autumn	Bake something tasty together	Read a book together
Take some photographs which show signs of Autumn	Create an Autumn picture using natural materials	Play a board game together	Have a family talent show!

### **Communication**

We have a number of ways to communicate with our families and thought that it might be useful to detail the different ways that you can access information to enable you to keep up to date with what's happening in nursery.

#### **Groupcall Text Messages**

This facility sends text messages directly to your mobile phone. There is a charge for each message that we send using Groupcall. We will contact you using Groupcall in the following instances:

- Nursery closures
- Individual messages to specific parents (absences etc.)
- Any other significant messages

#### **School App Messages**

We have a school app which you can download (search App or Play store for "School App for Parents"). We have access to a messaging facility through the app and will use this to send reminders to the whole parent body about events.

#### **Newsletters**

We will send these to you via email. We will **no longer** send you a Groupcall text message to advise you that we have sent an email as this is not cost effective. Please keep a regular eye on your email inbox. If we do not have an email address for you, please consider providing us with one. We will also publish newsletters on the school and nursery website which you can access here: <https://stjohnogilvie.westlothian.org.uk>

#### **Learning**

We will share information about learning with you in 2 ways.

1. Through our school app – within the information section – Woodlands ELC Blog
2. Through Twitter. Follow the school @WLStJohnOgilvie and nursery @WLWoodlandsELC

#### **Dates for your diary**

We will give you information about upcoming events/dates in 2 ways

1. Through our school app – within the dates section
2. Verbally from the staff in the nursery

Wishing all of our children and families an enjoyable break!

