



WISHING WELL FAMILY CENTRE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Wishing Well Family Centre is a locally based integrated, community organisation that offers support to families, responding in a caring and open way to social, educational, economic and environmental needs within our community.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER –

CLOSING - Tuesday 23rd December **REOPENING** - Monday 5th January 2015



**FREE PLACES AVAILABLE
FOR SEPTEMBER 2015**



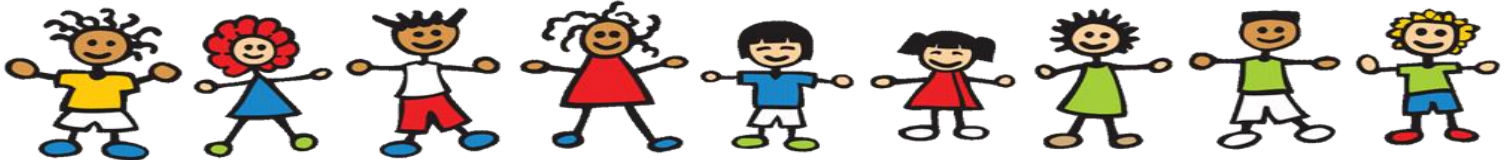
What age should my child be to access a pre-school place?

Priority will be given to children born between 2 July 2011 and 1 July 2012.

When do I need to apply?

Application forms are available at reception from 28 November 2014 and completed forms must be submitted before noon on 14 January 2015.

Pre School open day Tuesday 2nd December 2014 from 9am - 11am.



STAYING SAFE OVER CHRISTMAS -



Christmas lights and decorations

Check your Christmas lights for frayed wires, faulty sockets and loose connections. If you have excess cable/wire make sure that it is fastened down securely.

- Turn all your Christmas lights off when you go to bed or go out for long periods, as leaving the lights on can cause a fire.
- Avoid having small decorations where young children can reach them, as they can be a choking hazard.
- If you are having candles lit make sure they are out of children's reach, and in non-flammable containers and that in won't fall over. Keep your candles away from your Christmas tree and decorations and always remember to blow them out once you are finished with them.
- Don't hang decorations from lights, heaters or to close to open fires as they can catch fire easily

ROOM UPDATES



Baby Room

With Christmas fast approaching the babies will be participating in various 'Winter and Christmas' crafts which will include Christmas Trees & snowflakes which will be displayed around the room. In January our theme will be 'Fruit' and we hope to introduce the babies to fruits from around the world. During February we will be focusing on the theme 'Love' and will be decorating the Baby room with Valentines crafts. To help us with this theme we would ask if parents could provide a photo of family members etc who the babies love.

Laura Burns - Supervisor

Toddler Room

Lately we have welcomed some new children to the setting and we are pleased to say they have settled in well and seem to be enjoying their time with us. Our theme for December will be 'Christmas & Winter' and we will be decorating our room with crafts which will include Christmas trees, Santa, snowmen, reindeer & snowflakes. Our shape for December is a star and the colour is red. In January we will be focusing our theme around different fruits and colours, we will do this through our snack time, our crafts, with fruit stamping and also sensory activity letting the children feel and taste & feel the various fruits. Throughout February our colour will be 'pink' and our themes 'Valentine & Chinese New Year'. During the month our craft will include Valentines cards, Chinese symbols, Lanterns & Dragons, we also hope to introduce the children to some Chinese foods. Our monthly theme is carried throughout all our daily activities and are displayed on the notice board outside our room.

Megan Hale - Supervisor

Junior Playgroup

Throughout December we have been will be concentrating on our theme 'Christmas'. Our arts & crafts will be displayed around the room e.g. Santa's, Snowmen, Christmas trees and much more. All our activities focus on our theme including colouring our dough red, adding colour to our sand & water tray and dough. During January & February we will be looking at different types of Weather and the colour blue. We will be doing many craft activities with the children and associating words the Weather e.g. cold, wet, windy and frosty. Our crafts will include sticking activities, using hand prints, sponges, paint, glitter and much more. In February the children will be making Valentine cards & painting pink hearts etc. I would like to remind parents that your child's artwork is placed in their folder outside the room at the end of each month, we would encourage you to take the contents home each month.



Nuala Heaney - Supervisor

Senior Playgroup

The children are very excited getting ready for Christmas, we have been very busy at the moment creating all the lovely arts and crafts for our room, please feel free to come and have a look. During the month of January our theme will be 'People who help us'. The children will learn about this through different stories, discussions, imaginary play and table top activities. Our theme in February will focus on shapes and the children will take part in making a junk art shape book and we will use this during story and circle time. All activities in the room will be based around this theme and we will also be making some lovely arts and crafts for St Valentine's Day. Within the room we offer a wide variety of activities on offer each day. We encourage independence by allowing personal choice in activities. We hope your child will enjoy their time in our room and progress in all areas of play.

Tracey Massey - Senior Supervisor

Pre School

This month our theme is 'Winter and Christmas' and our activities will be based around this. Over the next week or so we will be planning a trip out to watch a nativity play in one of the local schools. The children continue to learn how to play together and also how to follow the routines and structure of the group. For further information regarding our themes and programmes please feel free to look at our weekly plans displayed on the noticeboard outside the room.

Muriel Dalzell - Senior Supervisor

Out of Schools

As usual we have been busy in Out of Schools doing homeworks and as Christmas approaches we will be taking some time out to make Christmas crafts and activities. If your child will not be attending Out of Schools on any particular day please inform staff before 1pm when possible.



*We would like to wish all our parents/carers and children
a very Merry Christmas and peaceful and prosperous New Year.*

If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child at any time please feel free to speak to the room supervisor, early year's supervisor or manager.

WE WOULD ASK ALL PARENTS TO ADHERE TO SESSION TIMES REGARDING DROP OFF & COLLECTION OF CHILDREN UNLESS OTHERWISE ARRANGED WITH ROOM SUPERVISOR. DROPPING CHILDREN OFF BEFORE SESSION TIMES OR LATE COLLECTION OF CHILDREN CAN EFFECT ROOM RATIO'S AND CAUSE PROBLEMS

IF FOR ANY REASON YOUR CHILD DOES NOT ATTEND NURSERY, FEES ARE STILL PAYABLE. THE ONLY TIME FEES ARE NOT PAYABLE IS WHEN THE CENTRE IS CLOSED

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need. **We raised an outstanding £542**



ATTENTION ALL MOTHERS

Every Tuesday from 10am -12noon we run our Mother & Toddler group. If you have a child under school age and are free why not come along.

BUS - We offer a pick up and return bus service for all children. For further details please ask at reception.



Sparkling vanilla Christmas cookies

Prep: 10 mins Cook: 12 mins Plus chilling time

Makes 20 biscuits

Hang these from a Christmas tree or pack them into boxes as end-of-term gifts for teachers and friends.

Ingredients

- 140g icing sugar, sieved
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg yolk
- 250g butter, cut into small cubes
- 375g plain flour, sieved

To decorate

- 200g icing sugar, sieved
- edible food colouring, optional
- edible gold and silver balls
- approx 2m thin ribbon cut into 10cm lengths



Method

1. Tip the icing sugar, vanilla extract, egg yolk and butter into a mixing bowl, then stir together with a wooden spoon (or pulse in a food processor until well combined). Add the flour and mix to a firm dough. Shape the dough into two flat discs and wrap in cling film. Chill for 20-30 mins. Heat oven to 190C/fan 170C/gas 5 and line two baking sheets with non-stick baking paper.
2. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to about the thickness of two £1 coins. Cut out Christmassy shapes (use a cutter if you like) and place on the baking sheets. Using the tip of a skewer, cut a small hole in the top of each cookie. Bake for 10-12 mins until lightly golden.
3. Lift the biscuits onto a wire rack to cool. Meanwhile, mix the icing sugar with a few drops of cold water to make a thick, but still runny icing. Colour with edible food colouring, if you like. Spread it over the cooled biscuits, decorate with edible balls and thread with ribbon when dry.

PLEASE REMEMBER

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MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE



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