



Dear Parents/ Carers

What have we been up to this term?

Welcoming all our families and getting to know the children. It's lovely to see how well they have settled in this term and we would like to thank all our parents for their ongoing support in ensuring their children have positive experiences at Windmills. We have been busy in preschool; themes of science, bugs, animals & Autumn as focus for learning has been so much fun and given the team many opportunities to get to know their key children and for the children to get to know each other. One of the highlights of the term was the outreach visit by our partners at Isle of Wight Zoo who introduced the children to Zuri, the African python. We hope to continue our connection with animals and "people who help us" through the Christmas term when the Ability Dogs return in November. We are proud of all the children's achievements, not least, the recognition in the County Press of their participation with Inver House to celebrate National Poetry Day. Our intergenerational activities continue when the children visit Inver to share their Christmas songs with the residents in December.

Fundraising News

 **Our Dragons Den** shed was delivered and constructed in the summer holidays. We now have internal sturdy shelving on 3 sides thanks to Tom Vincent, voluntary director.



Autumn/Christmas Activities - Dates 2019

Trips out and about/organised visits in setting

We have some exciting activities planned over the coming weeks in addition to our usual trips to the park, beach and village:

- Half term (2 weeks) Autumn half term ends 18th October
- Christmas half term starts 4th November
- Bonfire Night Glittery Fundraiser – 1st November
- Busy Bee Visit – 18th November
- Fire station Visit – 29th November
- Inver House Visit – week beg 2nd Dec, tbc
- Ability Dogs for Young People – 6th December
- Bembridge Primary Visit for Christmas Play – 11th December
- Windmills Christmas Party & NSPCC Christmas Jumper day – 13th December (afternoon)
- Christmas Lunch (school dinners) – 18th December
- Bembridge Primary Christmas Fair – 19th December (Windmills will be holding a raffle at this event)
- Christmas term ends 20th December
- Spring term starts 6th January 2020

Safeguarding & Housekeeping

Mobile Phones – Please do not use your mobile phone in the preschool. Keep it out of sight and preferably leave in your car at drop off/pick up, thank you.

Gates and Bolts! - Please remember to close the front gate and secure all bolts when leaving or arriving at preschool, thank you.

Medication - Please do inform us if your child has been given any medication prior to attending preschool; all medication to be administered here must be prescribed and have the correct label. In both cases, forms need to be completed in preschool.

Absences – Please remember to call us as soon as possible. We are obliged to record all absences for the local authority funding records.

Wintery Clothes Change – Please ensure that your child has appropriate NAMED clothing for the changing seasons as we venture out in all weathers. Warm coats, hats and gloves plus waterproofs, all-in-ones and wellies where appropriate make for great outdoor adventures. A NAMED complete change of clothing is very useful due to wet play!

**Bonfire Night
Glittery Fundraiser**

**Friday 1st November
Bembridge Fireworks
Night 18:30 Bembridge Youth &
Community Centre.**

We are teaming up with the brilliant BoB & Bunny bobandbunnyiow@yahoo.com to bring you glitter and sparkle while watching the fabulous annual firework show. Lots of edible glitter cookies, sparkly cupcakes & of course added sparkle for face & lips from

Glitter



B & B. **PLEASE COME & SUPPORT US THANK YOU!**

Collection of children – Prompt pickups and drop offs help us to maintain the correct ratios of staff to children thank you! If you have a child at the Primary School, please do pick up from preschool FIRST thank you!

Invoice Payments – Please do pay promptly. We are a small educational charity with limited cash flow! Any problems at all pop in and have a chat with Rachel.

Healthy Lunches & Snack donations

We notice a marked difference in behaviour after lunch when our children have foods with hidden sugars in their lunch boxes!

Please remember that we promote the healthy snack and lunch initiative. Where possible please avoid including squash and chocolate but do include lots of fresh fruit and vegetables. **Donations of healthy snacks** are very welcome.

Choking hazards – Please chop all grapes, olives and small foods, thank you. These are proven choking hazards for children.

Nuts and Allergens

The preschool has changed its nut policy to a broader allergen aware policy–this means that we still have a no nut policy but ask parents to be aware of other allergens present in lunch box food which can cause severe reactions. We will be happy to give more advice on this with a list of known allergens if required.

Water Bottles & Lunch Boxes Please bring a **named water bottle** for your child. Water is available all day but having their own bottle encourages independence. If your child's bottle or lunch box isn't named, we will add their name with permanent marker pen to help the team with identifying!

Tapestry Activations

Please ensure that you have activated your account; we have a few families that are still not benefiting from this wonderful resource. Any queries or problems with logging in or activating see Natalie or Rachel. Many thanks.

Please remember to check your child's drawer at the end of each session, thank you.

Bembridge in Bloom Competition 2019

First Prize for Windmills for 2019! Well done to the children, staff team and directors. **Our Recycled Gardening** theme resonated with the judges. Thank you for all the parent donations to the garden. We are always grateful for any plants or seeds.

Bembridge Christmas Star Competition 2019

We are building on our successful star entry last year when Windmills used recycled coloured plastic from the beach and home to decorate the star inspired by Holly Maslen's creative visit last November. This year our theme will be "Stargazing - Rocket to the Moon" following on from our Science week earlier in October.

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Charity No. 1103864 OFSTED URN EY447958 Company No 4977468

Watch the space directly opposite the preschool main gate to see what the team and the children create!



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REMEMBER Amazon Smile. Amazon will donate 0.5% of a net purchase to Windmills if you select our charity Windmills Preschool from the drop-down box on smile.amazon.co.uk. Thank you for your support and happy shopping!



Please like and share our page Windmills Preschool Bembridge [@WindmillsBembridge](https://www.facebook.com/WindmillsBembridge). Thank you.

Community News

Every Wednesday, 10:15-11:45 – Trinity Church Mice toddler group in The Cloisters behind Bembridge Community Library. Please see their FB page "Trinity Church Mice" for more details.

OFSTED REGISTERED CHILDMINDER – Contact Tania at Bembridge Bambinos, home from home childcare, Mon-Fri 7:30am-6:00pm, plus school holiday care. Bembridge bambinos@hotmail.com, 07565 853843

Windmills Team News

At the end of this half term we said goodbye to Paige; we are happy to report that she has not gone too far away – she has successfully followed her chosen path specialising as support in a local primary school SEN department. We wish her well and would like to welcome Della to the team! Della has extensive experience particularly in Speech and Language and has already made connections with her key children after a detailed handover with Paige. If you have any questions about this transition, please see Natalie.

At 30-50 months ... I can demonstrate friendly behaviour, initiate conversations and form good relationships with peers and familiar adults.

This has certainly been borne out over the past seven weeks. We look forward to the next few weeks!

Did you know?
Early Years
Development
Fact....

Finally, thank you for your continued support for Windmills. Natalie, Anna, Stacey, Dionne, Karen, Rachel, Jenny & Della...The Windmills Team