

A very happy New Year to all our friends, old and new.

Our Cabin children say the cutest things! Here are some of the children's quotes to start the new year.

Adult – ‘That’s magnificent’.

Child – ‘NO! IT'S MY HOUSE!’

At lunch time: Child 1 ‘I don’t want to eat this’.

Child 2 (hands on hips and head to the side, looking at friend) ‘Oh, just eat it!’

We’d like to take the opportunity to say Thank you to the Woodcote Rally for a very generous donation this year. We have replaced our mud kitchen, and purchased a few other bits to enhance our outdoor learning space. The children were so excited to receive the new equipment. There’s still enough left over from the donation to make a huge contribution to our annual summer outing.



We made Pudsey hats for Children in Need, and talked about how it is good to help others by giving time as well as money to help people and children less fortunate than themselves.

The Woodcote Garden centre again allowed us to come over to look at the Christmas trees. Mike and Gill were, as ever, very accommodating, allowing us to decorate the trees and “mess up” all their lovely displays. Thank you.

We held a Christingle service with our friends from Woodcote Preschool and Oak class, at St Leonard’s Church. This helped to start the Christmas celebrations right!. Thank you to Rev David for sharing the Christmas story with us and for a fun morning. All the Cabin children made and brought a Christingle to the service. We had already talked about what each part of these represents and were very proud of one of the children who stood up and told everyone that the ribbon was for love.

At the Woodcote Primary Christmas Fair, we joined with FOWPS to run a Water or Wine stall. Everyone had lots of fun guessing which bottle contained wine or which contained water. Thanks to everyone who contributed bottles, attended the event and played our game. All the money raised will pay for a Christmas party for our children.



As a thank you for donating toys to the RAF toy drive, we enjoyed a RAF fly past with a real-Life Santa waving back from inside the helicopter! It was such a treat. All the children (Woodcote Primary and Cabin) wore Santa hats which made it even more festive.

Thank you to everyone that attended our AGM in December. I can confirm the positions of the fantastic committee for the coming year;

Chair - Caroline Gibson

Secretary - Nicola Baker

Treasurer and administrator - Helen Baker

Thank you all so much for taking on these essential roles.

During the AGM, I took the time to say how proud I am to work with such a professional team, staff especially, who put so much of their own time into Cabin, which makes it a lovely place to work and learn.

We had a fantastic time joining (for the first time) Woodcote Primary by participating in their Christmas Production. The children sang their hearts out and looked so special in their star costumes. We aren't at all biased to say they were real little stars!

The staff did some training on resilience earlier in the school year, and I want to highlight the importance of resilience in young children, something as it seems to be rather topical now:

Children thrive on routine, predictability and boundaries - when they lose these factors in the long-term, it can be a difficult time for parent and child. However, as parents, there are ways to help them not only cope, but thrive during these times.

1. Help them manage uncertainty

Parents can help their children feel safe and secure during uncertain times by helping them recognise that life is less certain than they think – but this is okay. In fact, it can be exciting not knowing exactly what will happen – surprises can sometimes be nice!

2. How to cope with setbacks

Not all unexpected events are good of course, and building resilience is about helping children cope with disappointment and things going wrong. Encourage your kids to talk about feelings and emotions so that they can recognise and label the feelings of disappointment and frustration that are normal reactions to setbacks. Help them to name these feelings when they notice them.

3. Embrace mistakes

Resilient children are less afraid of making mistakes and more prepared to take risks – because they can cope with having got it wrong. Explain how we don't always know the answers or the right way to behave, but we can make the best choices we can – and accept if we get it wrong. This means showing them that mistakes are great ways to learn and are part of what makes us human.

4. Empower your child

Resilient children can make age-appropriate decisions about the things that affect them. All parents want to protect their kids – it's part of the job description, but when we try too hard to protect them from life's bumps, we can do more harm than good to their developing resilience.

5. Challenge their beliefs

Finally, resilient children develop helpful, rather than unhelpful, ways of thinking. Examples of unhelpful thinking styles include catastrophising (assuming the very worst will happen), black and white thinking (seeing things only as either good or bad), ignoring the positives (dismissing when good things happen and only focusing on when bad things happen), fortune-telling

(assuming they know what is going to happen) and over-generalisation (assuming that because something happened once, it will always be that way).

Looking ahead, please save the date for our Annual BINGO night on the 15th March 2024. We'd love you to come and enjoy an evening with friends.

From April 2024, The government will be extending the funding for 15 hours of free funding for all 2 two years. This means that you can receive free childcare at The Cabin Preschool, for all two-year-olds. They need to be 2 years old before the 31st of March 2024. You could receive 15 free hours which you can top up if needed. You will need to meet the criteria for eligibility. To find out more and to see if you qualify, search online on Childcare Choices. Alternatively, Call Jayne on 01491 680854 and she will be able to advise you.

You can find The Cabin Preschool in the Woodcote Primary school grounds, and at just £5.75 per hour, we have got to be worth a visit! We do have some spaces available this year and are getting lots of interest at the moment. Please register your interest with us via email: info@thecabinpreschool.co.uk or call 01491 680854 to book a visit.

You can also follow on Facebook and see what we get up each week. Search for Friends of the Cabin Preschool.