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Welcome back to Saplings. Christmas has come and gone, and hopefully you all had an enjoyable and relaxing break ☺

What a hectic winter term! The kids loved the build up to Christmas and made lots of pictures, baubles and crackers to put on the tree.

The Christmas party was a great success. The Staff dressed up, games were played and lots of fun was had by all. Lorna will be putting some photos of the party in the settings over the coming weeks.

The children seem to have settled back into school with ease and, starting next week, we will be baking again.

Welcome & Farewell

We say farewell to Oliver, Duane and Merlin who left us in December, and extend a warm welcome to Zoe, Kara, Reuben, Ubay, Ronnie, Olivia, Preston and Malekei who have recently joined us.

Staff Changes

Natalie has moved from the Oakshott setting to the Little Ash setting to support Vicky and her team in the afternoons. She will also be the leader for child development.

As part of her professional development, Bev will now work with Caroline at the Oakshott setting in the afternoons.

Health. Did you know? ☺

A recent study by *UK Active* suggested that a significant proportion of children 'disengage' from physical activity during their years at primary school. At Saplings, this is something we are working hard to prevent.

We have lots of fun ideas to encourage the kids to stay active, and we look forward to getting them out into the fresh air this Spring.

Sapling Events

Our friends in the RAF Police have visited the Oakshott setting to talk to the children about personal safety and security. This was a fun interactive session and provide the kids with some simple but valuable guidance.

Parent/Provider Partnership

After school clubs: Please could you let the manager of your setting know if your child is going to attend any after school clubs, at the start of each term. The manager will ask you to fill in a form giving us your authority to pick your child up.

Breakfast: It would be very helpful if children who are having breakfast can be dropped off at Saplings before 8:00 am. This will allow the staff to tidy the setting and spend more quality time with the children outside.

Other Notices

Security Passes for the Oakshott setting: As you may have noticed, work is already underway to build the security fence around the camp. Everybody entering will need to have their photo ID and Station Pass with them at all times. Caroline can provide application forms to any parents who need them. Once you have completed the form, please contact me so that I can arrange for your pass to be issued.

New Bank Details: Please note that bank account 55165968 sort code 30 94 28 is no longer active.

Resources: Lorna is still keen to buy more toys, so if you are looking to get rid of any, please can you let her know.

Staff Recruiting: We are still looking to recruit more staff, so if you have anyone in mind, we would love to hear from them.

Holiday Club: The proposed February half term holiday club dates are from the 14th to the 16th inclusive.

Please Action Today

Sapling Facebook:  If you are a user of Social Media, please add yourself to our Facebook parents group. Please be assured that we will not post any photographs of the children, but will post weekly updates. The updates will include photographs of the children's work and activities as well as information and news about what they have been up to. Please find us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/sapling.childcare>

Thank you for your continued support.

Lorna Crook and The Sapling Team