



# Holding Hands Pre-school

[www.holdinghandspreschool.co.uk](http://www.holdinghandspreschool.co.uk)

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Holding Hands Pre-School Ltd \* Old Amersham Farm \* High Street \* Amersham \*  
Buckinghamshire \* HP7 0HR

Tel: 07920512180 \* Email: [info@holdinghandspreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@holdinghandspreschool.co.uk)

To all of our parents and carers,

Looks like Winter is setting in fast, as the weather has certainly become rather chilly over the past week. We hope you are able to get out this weekend and enjoy the crisp mornings and frosty scenery as much as we have these past few days!

This week, the children have fully embraced the Christmas vibe...from making special decorations to practicing the songs for our performance at the end of term. We have also attempted to make pretend snow, but really just had fun getting messy in the process and we even found ice in the garden! The children delighted in breaking it up, investigating the shards and thought of some interesting ways of changing it, including crushing, melting and also painting it. Out on the farm, the animals have needed some extra bedding and plenty of food, so the children have been hard at work looking after them and making sure they are tucked up warm at the end of the day.

Inside, there has been all sorts going on from making costume props to dinosaur world (a particular favourite this term). We have baked some yummy treats, made playdough and helped with washing up everything from utensils to paint pots. The children have made large train tracks together and built grand houses out of Duplo, they have used magnifying glasses to find creatures hiding in the dry leaves we collected and set up small-world models including fire station, dolls house and farm to build beautiful stories around. We have even seen some role-play this week involving father Christmas's elves in his workshop "making toys for all the girls and boys!"

The team have also had Christmas in mind this week and we have put together some information regarding the Christmas party and fair. Please find attached the Christmas fair poster and a letter regarding anything you will need to know about the day, including timetable,

what's going on and what's included in the ticket price. Tickets will be available from next week and are per child, so don't forget to buy one if you would like your child to attend. We are also still making and selling Christmas decorations and gifts, so you still have time to place orders if you haven't done so already. Unfortunately, the t-towels have now sold out but they have been replaced with tote bags and in addition we are selling aprons. Please see the attached order form for photo's.

Furthermore, as part of our Christmas planning, we have enlisted the help of a professional photographer to attend on Thursday 29th November and Wednesday 5th December. She will take a photo of each child and like all school photographs, proofs will be sent out for you to purchase should you wish. If your child does not usually attend on either of these days, you are invited to come along by arrangement through Karen, so please get in touch.

In other news, for those of you who have requested a change of sessions or additional sessions, these have now been allocated for January, and you will have received notification of this. We would also like to remind all those who have received funding forms, that these must be returned by next week to ensure funding is allocated. Failure to do so, may result in unexpected charges.

It has been a little while since we last mentioned our parent WhatsApp group and with lots of new families now attending the setting, we thought now was a good time to see if anyone else would be interested. One of our lovely parents, Kayleigh has set up a WhatsApp group for the parents whose children attend the setting. It has proved to be a great way for parents to get to know one another, set up play dates and help each other out. Should you wish to be apart of this group, let us know and we can forward the details.

Another one of our lovely parents, Katherine, has suggested we set up a donation for the food bank this Christmas. There will be a donation box in the cloakroom under a poster provided by Katherine. In addition, there is a link below to the Chiltern food

bank website which provides a list of items they are in desperate need of currently, if you would like an idea of what to give.

<https://chiltern.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

In the spirit of giving, we would like to say that we have joined easy fundraising to raise additional funds for the preschool. Lots of parents have already used the site and the process is simple, costing you no extra at all. Simply click on the link below and sign up before

continuing with your shopping as usual. All the while, raising extra pennies to support your children's preschool.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/holdinghandspresc/>

Lastly, with the weather really turning colder now, we would like to remind everyone to please provide appropriate clothing for your children. We are based on a farm, in the open and are therefore exposed to the wind and rain with little shelter outside. This being said, the children thrive on the outdoor curriculum and we spend a lot of time outdoors. It is therefore essential at this time of year to provide coats, gloves and hats for your child. We do provide waterproof overalls but these give little protection from the cold and coats need to be worn underneath in this weather. Thank you in advance.

If you have anything you would like to know more about or a topic you would like included in next weeks email, please let us know.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email,  
The Holding Hands Team.