



Mohair Centre Newsletter

December 2019



No mobile
phones

Sorry, no mobile phones please!

Due to the safeguarding of children **NO** Mobile Phones are to be used within Nursery and Out of School. This includes in the yard and around the farm. If you do not generally collect/drop off your child, please could you also pass this message onto them? Thank you.

Dates for your diary:

For children who attend **Term Time ONLY**: Term ends on: Friday 20 December

We are open Monday 23rd December, Thursday 2nd January and Friday 3rd January for children who attend all year round- Holiday club is running on these days for 5-11yr olds.

Please note we are closed Tuesday 24th December- Wednesday 1st January (inclusive)

First day of Term for all Term Time only children: Monday 6th January 2020



Children in need:



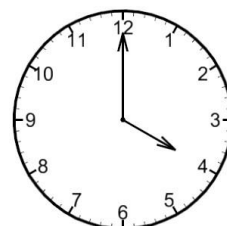
BBC Children in need: Since 1980 it has raised over £1 billion for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. It helps children in need whether its providing support for families or providing essential equipment for the home. BBC Children in Need exists to change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK. Their vision is that every child in the UK has a safe, happy and secure childhood and the chance to reach their potential.

For Children in Need 2019 we raised £75! We are very proud to have been able to raise this amount- thank you to all that donated. We dressed up and donated a £1, it was fun to post our money in the collection box! The toddlers painted spots all around the room and made Pudsey biscuits.

Important- Pick up and drop off reminder:

We do not open until 8:00am. The staff that are in early use the time before 8am to get ready for the day, set up and catch up on messages from the previous day. If you have arrived early, why not go to visit the Guinea Pigs or Ben and Jerry? Please ensure you wait with your child until 8am.

Late pick-ups threaten our ratios (adults to children) which are a legal requirement. For our 8-1 and 8-3 sessions it is important children are collected on time as our staffing levels change at these times. We have had to delay staff leaving to collect their own children to maintain ratio. We do understand that parents are sometimes delayed and we factor this in but it has been noted that some parents are consistently arriving 10 or 15 minutes late at the end of a session or the end of the day. From January we will be closely monitoring.

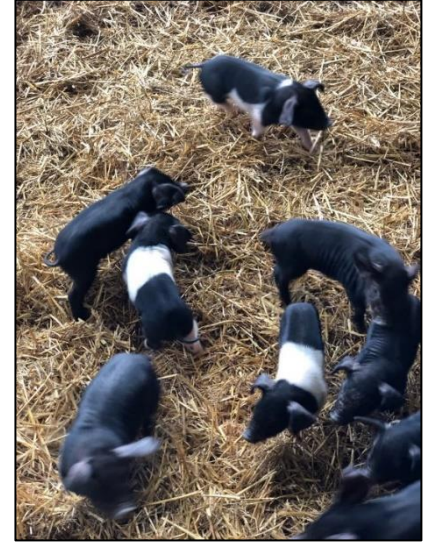


If you need to permanently extend a session (8-1pm or 8-3pm sessions only) as you are no longer able to collect on time please do speak with Liz. Thankyou.

New Arrivals: 22 Piglets!!

Its been very busy on the farm recently! The children are still very keen to visit the piglets, its amazing how quickly they grow! Some of the Toddlers, Preschool and After School Club were lucky enough to see some of them being born, lots of conversation about how many each Sow would have- We had some guesses as high as 95!

The children enjoy visiting the pigs and feeding them.



The Goats:



The goats are due to kid in the new year- hopefully mid February. Please can we take this time to remind you that pregnant women are advised to stay away from the lambing and kidding shed due to risk of infection. Please see the NHS link below for more advice.

<https://www.nhs.uk/common-health-questions/pregnancy/why-should-pregnant-women-avoid-sheep-during-the-lambing-season/>



The driveway:



Thank you everyone for your patience- the lane is due to be filled in on the 14th December, or the following Saturday if it is raining. Hooray!! Please remember the speed limit down the lane is 5mph.

Limited spaces available!

We currently have limited spaces available throughout the **Nursery** with immediate start! Please contact Liz on 01825 872457
nursery_mohaircentre@hotmail.co.uk

We also have space on a Monday in the Afterschool Club; we pick up from the following schools: Laughton, Ringmer, Little Horsted, Parkmead, East Hoathly, Hellingly, Chidingly. Please contact Rachel/ Jacky for more information
afterschool_mohaircentre@hotmail.co.uk



A reminder about clothing:

Our aim at The Mohair Centre is to ensure those attending a session are comfortable and enjoy the environment in all weathers. To achieve this the children need to be dressed in comfortable, appropriate clothing and footwear. Old clothes are also essential as the children will be get muddy.

Below is a list of what the children need to ensure they are comfortable and warm.

Essential & named Winter Clothing

Children will need at least 3 layers of clothes to keep them warm

Base Layer Thermal top and trousers worn next to the skin so they work effectively

Middle Layer Long sleeved top & thick jumper or fleece

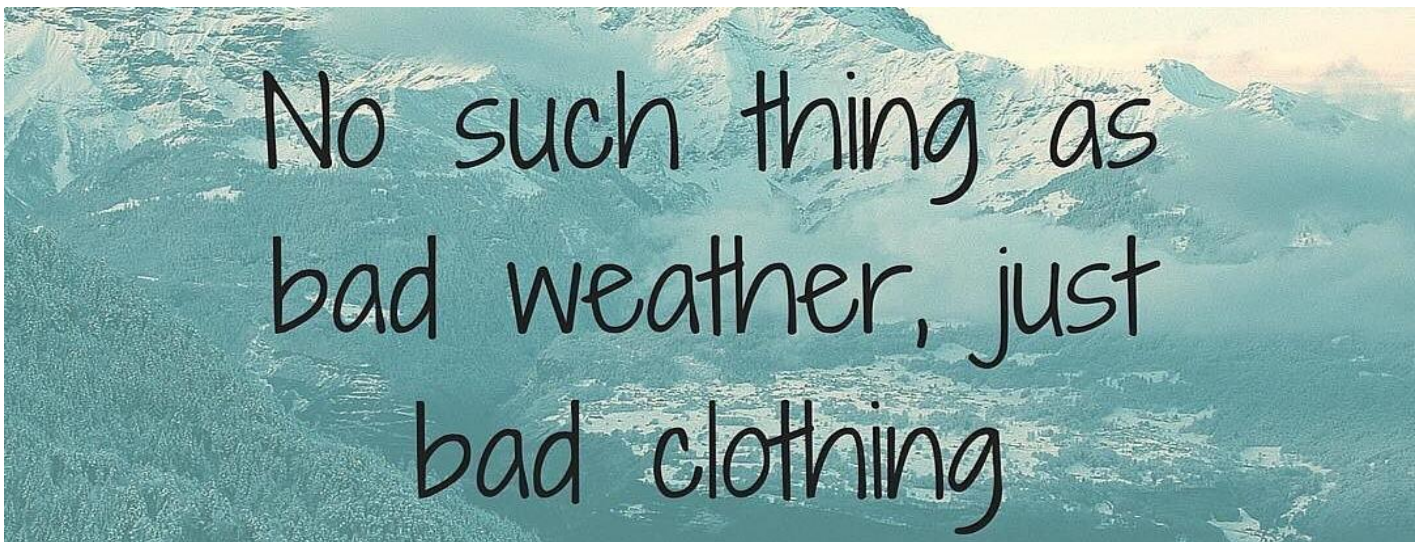
Top Layer Well insulated waterproof coat and trousers, Warm hat & Scarf

Gloves (not mittens)



PLEASE BRING A FULL CHANGE OF CLOTHES (MAYBE EVEN TWO OR THREE) INCLUDING MULTIPLE PAIRS OF SOCKS.

- Separate waterproof trousers are ideal as they are easier for the children to get on and off
- Snow boots or walking boots with thick or thermal socks or washable lining
- Welly boots do not keep feet warm in cold weather as they are poorly insulated.



In the Baby Room:

This term we have been busy in the Baby Room exploring the autumn and winter season. Pumpkins are a great resource! We explored pumpkins and then used them to make bird feeders using lard and bird seed. Lots of birds have been visiting our porch area to eat from the pumpkins- we really enjoy watching them!

Recently we have received an 'evacuation trolley' which the children are now becoming familiar with- this is in case there is ever a need to evacuate in an emergency. We have been pretending it's a train and going up and down the lane to the assembly point!

We made Pudsey biscuits for Children in Need- they tasted very yummy!

As the weather is getting colder we have noticed ice outside! We have also been exploring ice in our sensory tray- it is very cold!

As its nearly Christmas we have been making some Christmas surprises to take home as well as learning some new Christmas songs to sing to you!

In the Toddler Room:

In Toddlers we have been loving the wet weather! We have been going for walks to find puddles and seeing how much the stream has flooded! It even has a whirl pool!

Some of us have noticed lots of mushrooms around the farm and have been interested in finding out what they're called. We have been learning to look but not pick/touch.

Robin Hood (our resident Robin) and his friends have been back to visit so we have been making bird feeders using pots, lard and bird seed- we took it to the woods and Robin Hood followed us!

We have been very interested in mark making and using chalk on our chalk boards and hard floor.

We have our two tortoises in our room for winter, Rocky and Tallulah. Its very exciting when its time to feed them or change their bedding. Lots of offers to 'help!'

The toddlers have been busy farmers this term, we have been; Feeding the animals, giving the animals straw and hay, cleaning them out, moving the ponies around and much more! We had a very exciting morning around a month ago when we helped to move the sheep! The sheep followed our bucket of food- all apart from 3 cheeky sheep that went the wrong way!

The Toddler team wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to hearing all about it from the children when they arrive back in January!



In Pre school:

Pre-school were very interested to watch Cracker the pony have two teeth out when the horse dentist came to visit.

We have extended the children's learning by talking about visiting the dentist, brushing our teeth and healthy eating. We've read books about teeth and played with a giant teeth set- brushing the teeth and looking in the special dentist mirrors. John visited the dentist last week and told the children "You sit on your mummy's lap, the chair goes up up up and then you have to say ahhhhhhh." The dentist told John "No more sweeties!"

The children were very excited to see 3 deer in the field next to our forest school. We have made them an outdoor Christmas tree using our forest school skills and tools, drilling holes in carrots and hanging up small twigs with the deer's favourite; lichen.

The children have been really into role play and rhyming stories and have even begun to make up their own stories to act out and play along to.

We've also done lots of fire practice. A few children have managed to light the fire! Well done! We have also cooked our lunch on the fire.

Cheese & Wine Evening For Parents – School Readiness

Wednesday 12th February 7-9pm

Always a great evening. We try to help you understand what the Early Years Foundation Stage is about, help you become more involved in your children's Learning Journey. We will be talking about the Characteristics of Effective Learning, which feel are MOST important. We aim to move them forward with the seven Early Learning Goals but the Characteristics of Effective Learning are the tools that they will take with them for the rest of their lives and help them tackle all the new experiences they find at School. We are most likely to work together on an activity to remind parents how it feels to be a child at the Mohair Centre. This is what we did one year, last year we did a bit of problem-solving in groups. Everybody had a chance to see their children's Learning Journeys and an opportunity for Parents to meet and chat to each other.



Put this in your diaries, **not to be missed**. Please let Liz know if you are able to attend.

Parent's Evening on the Farm – Bring your Wellies Thursday March 26th 7-9pm



This is another evening for parents to come and discover how the children learn through the Early Years Foundation Stage on the Farm. A chance to share your child's Learning Journey with staff, helping you understand how we observe your child, assess and plan next steps so that your child can get the most out of their time at the Mohair Centre. I am certain that there will be a few jobs to do; as there always are! Lots of fun, rounded off with a bit of Cheese & Wine as is our tradition. Ask your child whether they can name the following animals? Or can you?

