**Spring Term 1**

**Dates for your Diary**

 **Training Days**

 Monday 3rd June 24

 Monday 22nd July 24

 Tuesday 23rd July 24

**Early closures for Training. Nursery will close at 4pm**

Wednesday 10th January

Wednesday 7th February

Wednesday 6th March

Wednesday 1st May

Wednesday 5th June

Wednesday 3rd July

 **Half term Holidays**

12th February to 16th February 2024

29th March to 12th April 2024

27th May to 31st May 2024

24th July to 30th August 2024

Welcome to Windmill Daycare

January –February 2024

 Happy New Year everyone and welcome back. I hope you all had a lovely half term break. Last term was super busy and we finished it off with a brilliant Christmas Party day complete with real Reindeers. Thank you to all who gave us such lovely feedback about the party. The staff work incredibly hard to provide the children with lovely experiences and learning opportunities.

 **Primary School Admissions**

If your child was born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020, they will be starting school in September 2024. The school admissions portal is now open for Parents/Carers to make their school selections. The closing date for the portal is 15th January 2024. We advise that you select more than just one school. Local schools will be holding open days for you to go and look around and ask any questions that you may have.

Nicky in the office is happy to support any Parents/Carers with the admissions process. If you would like help, please contact her by email at Nicola.jowett@musicfederation.co.uk and book a time to come in for some support.

**Class Dojo**

Thank you to everyone who has already set up a class Dojo account. I hope you are finding it useful. Any feedback about the new system would be appreciated.

If your child is new to the Daycare, you will have received a QR code to link you to your child’s account. Please sign up as soon as possible to ensure you stay updated with events, messages and what is happening in Nursery. If you require support to set Dojo up, please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s key person or the office staff.

**Scheme for 2YOs of working families from April 2024**

Some of you may have heard about the 15 hours funding for 2 year olds for working parents available from April 2024. For those working families interested in the new scheme from April, please visit

[Apply for free childcare if you're working - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-childcare-if-youre-working?step-by-step-nav=f517cd57-3c18-4bb9-aa8b-1b907e279bf9)

Parents may apply through the same childcare account that they may already use for Tax Free Childcare or for Extended entitlement (30 hours) for another child. They will be sent an 11-digit eligibility code to present to Nursery as evidence of their eligibility.

***Bank Holidays, Nursery closures***

*Friday 29th March-Good Friday*

*Monday 1st April-Easter Monday*

***Contact us***

*Telephone 0113 2712330*

*Nursery Mobile* 07725639960

*Email*

*Emma Wealleans-Manager*

*emma.wealleans@musicfederation.co.uk*

*Nicola Jowett- Nursery Administrator*

*Nicola.jowett@musicfederation.co.uk*

*Facebook –Windmill Daycare-Music federation.*

*Website- www.musicfederation.co.uk*

Funding begins the term after the child turns two. The term start dates are 1st April, 1st September and 1st January.

The code must be obtained before the start of the term it is to be used in, as currently for 3 & 4 year olds Extended Hours.

For an April start, the deadline will therefore be 31st March.

Codes must be renewed every few months, as is the case for current Extended hours eligibility codes for 3&4year olds.

The child will retain the same eligibility code when they turn three, to access the extended hour’s scheme.

Parents facing any issues with the application or their childcare account, must contact HMRC Childcare team on 03001234097. We have no access to their systems and cannot make decisions on the eligibility of the family.

**Events**

**Monday 5th –Friday 9th February. Children’s Mental Health week.**

The children will be learning about different emotions, and techniques to calm and self-regulate to help to develop resilience and better their well-being.

**Friday 9th February- Chinese New Year.**

The children will enjoy learning all about the story of New Year and the race between the animals, tasting different Chinese foods, using chopsticks and dancing to Chinese music.

**Friday 1st March -St David’s Day**

Children to wear something Yellow, they will be taking part in lots of Yellow activities and will learn a Welsh song.

**Thursday 7th March – World Book Day**

Children are invited to dress as their favorite story character. Children who do not attend on a Thursday are welcome to dress up any other day that week.

**Friday 8th March - Mother’s Day story Session**. Stay and Play session. Individual invitations will be sent out shortly with more details.