

Playgroup News

ST JOHN'S
NURSERY
PLAYGROUPS



St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

Spring Term 2018

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www.stjohnsbakerstreet.co.uk
The newsletter is available on our website which will make it easier to link to the web pages listed in this issue.

We welcome all the new children and families that have started with us this January. It's lovely to see the new children settling into the busy life of St John's so quickly. Your child's keyworker is available to see you at the beginning or at the end of the session if there is anything you wish to discuss regarding your child or children.

Spring Term Theme

This term the focus is on rhyme and rhythm so we are looking at traditional nursery rhymes. We have already seen a mouse run up the clock and an incy wincy spider climbing up a **spout** until the rain washed him **out**! Please sing rhymes at home and emphasise the rhyming words e.g. as you walk up the stairs you could sing The Grand Old Duke of York who had 10,000 men and when it rains, you could sing about the old man who bumped his head!

1. **Rhyming teaches children how language works.** It helps them notice and work with the sounds within words.
2. **Rhymes help children experience the rhythm of language.** As they recite nursery rhymes they learn to speak with animated voices. Someday they'll read with expression, too.
3. **When children are familiar with a nursery rhyme or rhyming book, they learn to anticipate the rhyming word. This prepares them to make predictions when they read, another important reading skill.** (Taken from themeasuredmom.com website)

This week the children have been cooking and baking.



After half term, we will be continuing with our nursery rhymes with Humpty Dumpty and Mary had a little Lamb.

Fund raising event....

Mrs White and Mrs Aherne-Sime are planning to run a half marathon and in the process raise funds for the playgroup. They hope to raise £3000 which will enable the playgroup to purchase an interactive whiteboard.

An **interactive whiteboard** is like a very large iPad that allows software from the PC to be displayed on the whiteboard. We, including the children can then write or draw on the board, play educational games, follow the children's interests and cover all aspects of the EYFS. It's a very exciting proposition and we hope you will sponsor the ladies to enable us to buy it. The sponsorship will be via Just Giving, a secure, online fundraising website. Further info to follow soon.

Change4Life

The government has a new initiative called Change4Life which is promoting a healthy eating and lifestyle for your children, the link is:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

If you go to the tab Food Facts, then select Snacks, it will give you a break down on healthy and unhealthy snacks, there are interactive questions about what's hidden in the food and drinks that children consume every day. Half the sugar children are having comes from snacks and sugary drinks.

Too much sugar can lead to harmful fat building up inside and serious health problems, including tooth decay.

Fruit and vegetables are always the best choice and it's best to start them on these snacks when they are young. If you're shopping for packaged snacks for your children, use this helpful tip: look for 100 calorie snacks, two a day max!



TESCO Bags of Help

St John's has had confirmation from Tesco's that we have been given a grant of £4000 under the Bags of Help promotion.

Our theme is **Exploring Outdoors is Exciting** and we have a list of the items that we would like to buy for our outdoor play area, e.g. fitting a new rubberised surface and replacing the playhouse.

Thank you to everyone who put the blue tokens into the cubicle at the Tesco stores. More information to follow in due course.



Sessions for next term

We are already writing to and accepting children to start at St John's in the summer term, i.e. after Easter Holidays. If you haven't already, please complete the form on the notice board asap advising if you wish to add to your current sessions for next term.



St John's is signed up to the 30 hours free childcare. If you think this is an option for you and you may be eligible, please refer to the government website for further information on 2,3 and 4 year old funding including 15 hours and the 30hours options.

The link is <https://www.gov.uk/help-with-childcare-costs/free-childcare-and-education-for-2-to-4-year-olds>.

So far we have 7 families have been able to take advantage of this extra free childcare. For parents that are already accessing the 30 hours don't forget to reconfirm your eligibility with HMRC before the end of this term, to ensure you do not lose your entitlement for the summer funding period.

Staff News

A very warm welcome to Ahdieh Khosravizad who joined St John's this term. Mrs Khos, as known by the children, comes with many years experience in childcare, holding a level 5 in Early Years. Mrs Khos is the keyworker for the Red Rabbit group.

Megan Hague, who is studying an Early Years level 3 at college and who has been with us since late September, has moved to her new placement this week. Megan has been a fantastic support in our busy playgroup and the children have become very fond of her. We wish her all the best in your studies Megan. We have a new student starting after the half term holidays.

Clothing

Please ensure your child arrives at playgroup in appropriate clothing for a fun, messy, outdoor, indoor, painting, gluing, playdough, water, shaving foam, cornflour, lots of fun kind of day! In this weather they should have a warm coat and sensible shoes (useable inside and outside) as we do go outside in all weathers unless it is really inclement. Hard soled boots can hurt fingers and be slippery on the climbing frame. We have a supply of St John's fleeces, rain trousers and jackets which the children can grab in their haste to go outside and a stock of wellington boots if it is really wet with puddles. You could bring your child's Wellies if you choose to.



Change of clothes

Can you also bring a change of clothes for your child in a small bag (drawstring gym bags are ideal for hanging 'low' on the peg, allowing room for the coat above). If children use playgroups clothes and underwear i.e. if they have an 'accident' please could you wash and return the loaned clothes as soon as possible.

Measles

Please see attached the information leaflet produced by Public Health England entitled, Measles in Circulating.

Volunteers Needed

If you could spare half an hour a week to come a little earlier on a morning session and help us by washing up the children's snack plates and cups, it would be really appreciated. Please see Mrs Mills or Mrs Mash

Toys...

Children love to 'borrow' toys or items they are particularly attracted to but unfortunately it does leave us with missing jigsaw pieces, missing dice or play money etc. Small pieces are often part of a larger set and can leave an activity very sparse if many of the pieces are missing. Please check your children's pockets and return any items that may have 'slipped' into their pockets. We understand and no questions will be asked.



Snack sharing

Thank you to all the parents and carers that regularly bring in a piece of fruit or vegetable for the children to share at snack time.

Creative Church

Creative Church is on Sunday mornings at St John's Methodist Church. All the family are warmly invited to the informal Creative Church craft mornings which take place monthly in the Rainbow Room. The dates are February 18th, March 18th and April 15th from 10.30am to midday - art, craft, games, cooking, singing, food, bible story, toy corner, crèche and refreshments. All are welcome.



Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2018

Half term 12th - 16th Feb
Wed 28th Mar 11-12noon Easter Event in the church, all parents carers welcome.
Thurs 29th March is the END of Spring Term. Playgroup closes at 12.55

Summer Term 2018

Tues 17 Apr-Fri 20 July
Mon 16 Apr INSET DAY—closed
Thurs 10th May - Photographer
Half term 28th May - Fri Jun 1st
Sun 10th Jun - Potters Bar Carnival
Fri 6th Jul - Parent consultations
Tues 17th Jul Summer Farewell Picnic and fundraising event for Great Ormond Street Hospital