

Playgroup News

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Summer 2018



Summer 2018 Theme

The focus for this term is Life Cycles and the children have already met worms, caterpillars, tadpoles and of course the chicks that hatched last week.

Caterpillars that are busy munching on food are getting bigger each day and have now spun their cocoon.



The tadpoles are getting used to their new environment out of the pond and in the tank. They are growing by the day and in the weeks to come, will turn into little froglets! The children are fascinated with the little creatures and keen to feed them with crushed fish food.



2 chicks hatched last week, we have 2 very cute fluffy chicks, one yellow and one with amazing brown stripes. The children are already having the enjoyment of holding them and learning how to look after them.

We also had a visit from Lisa Worrell from the Reptile club who brought with her some amazing critters from gecko's, to a corn snake, African land snail, newt's and a tortoise. Have a look at our hanging photo library in the coat area for more pictures.



Potters Bar Carnival - Sunday 10th June

ALL CHILDREN INVITED and to come with a grown up. The theme will be LIFE CYCLES which includes tadpoles/frogs, caterpillars/butterfly, eggs/chicks. Please see letter coming out this week with full details of the event.

Reminders and requests...

Days for next term - for children staying with us in September, please update the days you would like your child to attend in the autumn term. Numbers are low for the autumn term so do please recommend us to other families.

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Ms Sandra Cull who has joined St John's this term and is a keyworker to the blue butterfly children. Ms Cull has many years experience working in the early years as well as being a mum of 4 children.



We welcome Chloe Smith who is a student doing her Level 3 at college and is with us Monday and Friday's.

We also welcome Jess Waterhouse who is assisting us in this very busy summer term. Jess has finished her first year at Uni studying Education Studies with Special Education Needs.

Parent Helpers

This term we are looking for parent helpers to accompany us on walks so we can keep the correct ratio of children back in the playgroup. These walks are in line with our commitment to reduce obesity, healthier living and contributing to the time the children are active. These walks are normally planned for around 9.30-10.30.

We would also like some help with snack time during the morning. If you can spare half an hour to do our washing up (after 11.15 and before 12), an hour or two either regularly or as a one off (snack is 9.45-11.30) and would like to help, please let us know.

If you think you could help in any other way please speak with your keyworker or the leadership team Mrs Mills, Mrs Mash and Mrs Stone if you would like to help with any of the above.



Facebook

St John's Nursery Playgroup is now on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user, PLEASE 'like' our page : [St John's Nursery Playgroup Potters Bar](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbakerstreet). If you would like to see your child/ren on our page engaged in some wonderful activities, then don't forget to hand in the approval slip sent out recently. If you need another form, please see Mrs Mash.

Supporting Your Children Children develop at different rates and at different ages. We support all children to move on to their next steps, whatever stage that is. In addition to the steps as outlined in the EYFS document, we are working on the following activities, particularly this term with so many children leaving to go to either nursery or reception: phonics - learning letter sounds; playdough gym; recognising their name and for those who are showing an interest, writing their name and transition support.

Transition Support
As this is the final term for many of the children, we want to make their transition to their new school as smooth as possible. In the second half of the summer term, we will be talking to the children about moving on to school, showing them school uniforms which they can try on if they choose, show them photo books provided by the schools. There will be lots of discussions about what the children can expect at their new school. We will have visits in July from the reception and nursery teachers from the local schools who come and meet the children. We will put on the notice board after the holidays a very useful poster entitled **Am I ready for school? Tips for parents (children going into reception)**.



GDPR - what it means for you

With GDPR coming into force on 25 May 2018, you can be assured that we continue to protect your data at all times. As we already ask you for permission to use various information in particular ways and we only collect data which we need in order to provide for your child's education, to keep your child safe (by having several contacts in case we are unable to reach you), by providing educational statistics to the Children's Centres in order for them to target their support where it is needed in our area; by providing information to County so we can claim funding on behalf of your child for them to access their free place at St John's Nursery Playgroup (2 year, 3-4 year 15 hour funding and 30 hour funding for those eligible). A new policy has been written which describes how we protect any data which we hold on your child/in relation to your child and how we protect it and share it.

As you know we are very proactive in gaining permission for us to share information (which includes photos) in new ways such as the recent letter asking for your child's photo to be posted on our Facebook page. We are awaiting a standard data sharing document from County which we will share with all families. The new policy will be available to read once it has been signed and approved by the Playgroup Board.

Sunscreen At last we have seen some lovely sunny weather. We have plenty of St John's Playgroup hats which the children wear when outside in the sun. We would ask you to apply sun cream to your children before coming in to playgroup. If it's particularly hot and sunny, we can give the children a top up. If your child does have an allergy to some sun creams, please let us know and perhaps you can provide your own.



Parent Consultations Friday 6th July

The parent consultations will take place on Friday 6th July, specific timings and details will be advised closer to the time. Leavers reports will be going out w/c 2nd July which can be discussed if needed at your 10 minute consultation. If you wish to discuss your child's progress or if you have any concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to speak with your keyworker.

Fund raising event Mrs White and Mrs Aherne-Sime will do a 10 km run on the morning of our picnic, finishing at the Furzefield by 11.30. They will then run round the field with all the children and any adults who want to participate.

We are looking for sponsorship for the ladies and also sponsorship for the children who will run with the ladies, at least once or perhaps twice around the field which will be quite an achievement for our young children.

We are raising funds for an interactive whiteboard which can be used for lots of learning situations including phonics, stories, mathematics and so on.

A sponsorship form will be issued after the half term holidays so you can start gathering sponsorship money from your friends and relatives.



Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2018

28/5-1/6 Half term, closed

Sun 10th Jun - Potters Bar Carnival, see separate letter

Fri 6th Jul - Parent Consultations see above

Tues 17th July - Farewell picnic and fund raising event, details to follow

Fri 20th July last day of term

Autumn Term 2018

Tues 4th Sept - children's first day back

Fri 7th Sept - new children's first visit

TBA - Harvest Festival

29 Oct-2nd Nov - Half term, playgroup closed

TBA - Nativity Play

Wed 20th Dec - Last day of term

2 inset days to be arranged during the