

# Playgroup News

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ST JOHN'S  
NURSERY  
PLAYGROUPS

St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

## September 2018

Welcome to all the new families that have joined us this September and welcome back to the families that returned after the summer holidays. The new children are settling in to the busy and lively routine of the playgroup. It's a busy term on the run up to Christmas with lots of new experiences for the children.

### This Terms Topics

This term we will be exploring and letting our children's imagination flow with Superheroes. Beginning with Super Tato, we shall be smelling and describing fruits and vegetables finishing with a visit to the church for our Harvest Festival.

We shall be discovering autumn leaves and wind with a superhero from PJ Masks. After half term Fireman Sam will be our hero by keeping us safe during the Fireworks and Diwali which will lead us into Lollipopman the Superhero of the Highway to keep us safe on the roads as the nights draw in.

Last of all Postman Pat our superhero will ensure our letters are delivered to Santa in time for Christmas. If your child wishes to dress up as one of the superheroes from our topic please see our display board for the dates.

### Fruit Sharing, Birthday Treats & Lunches

At St John's we promote healthy eating and ask the children to bring in a piece of fruit once or twice a week to share with the other children to supplement what we provide: pitta bread, humus, crackers, cheese, bagels, oat biscuits, vegetable sticks, bread sticks, raisins and more.

Birthday treats can be supplied in the form of fruit either fresh, dried or exotic! These special fruits will be served at snack time to celebrate your child's birthday.



Lunch box contents, we would like to encourage you to pack healthy foods. There are great ideas for healthy lunch boxes and suitable portion sizes on the notice board.

Please ensure you provide just enough food for lunch, some boxes are quite full and the children can spend too long eating and not enough playing! We would also ask if you could save chocolate and treats for home please and no nuts in any form including peanut butter or Nutella.



### Harvest Festival

St John's Nursery Playgroup and St John's Methodist church would like invite ALL St John's children and parents/carers to attend our short HARVEST FESTIVAL service on 11th October starting at 11.00 in the church.

We will take the children into the church to listen to a harvest story and the children will sing you some special harvest songs. St John's Methodist Church are supporting the Whitechapel Mission as part of this year's Harvest giving. This charity supports homeless people, mostly men. Please see the list on the notice board and on the separate invitation for current needs for Whitechapel mission. Please either bring the gifts in during the week or bring them on the day. The children will carry the gifts into the church.



### Photographer

On 8th November, Brett Lenman, a competent child photographer will be taking individual photos of all the children during the morning (fully supervised by a member of staff). If you would prefer your child not to be photographed, please speak with Mrs Mash and there is no obligation to buy.

If you would like a photo with your child's sibling/s, please let Mrs Mash know ASAP so she can advise a time to arrive. Please note the following times:

- School aged siblings, Mr Lenman will be available from 8.15am. Please arrive on time as there are often other families wanting a family photo.
- Current children with younger siblings who normally come on a Thursday, are welcome to arrive at 8.55am.
- If your child doesn't attend Thursday's, they are welcome to have their photo taken with younger siblings. A time will be issued.



## Farewell Picnic Fund Raising

We had a fabulous farewell picnic and had planned to raise funds for a new interactive board for the Playgroup. Due to illness, Mrs White and Mrs Sime were unable to run but do plan to complete the run later in the year. Thank you to those parents that already sponsored the ladies, we have kept your donation safe and secure.

## Staff & Student News

We welcome a new student Matt Dennis who will be at the setting Thursday's and Friday's. It's excellent to have a young man join the team.

We currently have a vacancy, please see the notice board for full details and application details or speak with Mrs Mills directly.

## Treasure Chest

At St John's we have a treasure chest which is primarily for children who need to bring in a comforter ranging from a cuddly toy, an old muslin or any other object that a child has formed a special bond with that will give them comfort if they 'wobble' during the morning. If you bring in an item for your child, whether it is a comforter or item of clothing, please remember to take it home. Don't forget to label all clothing too. Thank you.



## Childhood Influenza Immunisation

This winter, all children aged two and three can get vaccinated against childhood influenza. The vaccine is available from their GP's. The vaccine is given as a nasal spray with no injection involved. It will help to protect the children themselves, promote a healthy environment in early ears settings and reduce the risk of spreading to staff and family members. For further information, go to: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme)

## Families First

Families First is the name for organisations in Hertfordshire who work together to help you with any problems you or your family may be facing, before things might get worse. This is known as 'Early Help'. Early help is available if you're worried about anything affecting your family. You may not want or need to ask for help from a professional - there's lots of support you can find yourself by looking on their directory. <https://directory.hertfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/hertfordshire/directory/familiesfirst.page>

## Library Books

The book borrowing scheme is up and running. For new parents, useful information is included in your book bag. We hope your children are keen to borrow a book and that you spend invaluable quiet time together reading the story and talking about the pictures. Could we ask you to ensure your child's book is returned every week and we will endeavour to make sure they go home with a new book every week.



## Mobile Phones

A reminder that mobile phones are not to be used on playgroup premises in line with statutory requirements. The Playgroup uses a mobile phone for playgroup use only (as the mainline phone is in the hallway).

## 30 hours funding

St John's offers the 30 hours free funding for eligible families for 3 and 4 year olds. If you would like to take up this free funding, please go to the following link and apply. As soon as you receive your confirmation code, please pass to Mrs Mash who will add it to the funding portal. You must remember to reconfirm your eligibility with HMRC every 3 months to secure the funding, they should send out a email reminder, If you think you may be eligible for the Spring term 2019 go to: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>



## Dates for your Diary

### Autumn Term 2018

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Sept - Wed 19th December

Thur 11th Oct 11.15am — Harvest Festival

Thur 8th Nov from 8.15am - Photographer

29th Oct 2nd Nov - Half Term

TBA - Annual Stakeholders Meeting, all parents invited

TBA Children's Christmas party, all children invited

Wed 19th Dec - Nativity Play 11.15am

Start and LAST DAY OF TERM closing at 1pm after lunch club.

### Spring Term 2019

Wed 2nd Jan-Fri 5th Apr

Mon 7th Jan - Inset day, playgroup closed

Tues 8th - current children return

Fri 11th Jan - new children's first visit 12.20

18th-22nd February - Half term, PLAYGROUP CLOSED

Fri 5th Apr - Easter Holidays starts

Tues 23rd Inset day

Wed 24th Current children return