



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. Your child's key-worker 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 **T**his term we will be looking at Winter around the world. We have already started with England and enjoyed the windy days last week as it gave us an opportunity to make and fly our kites!

We have also been looking at other cultures and their celebrations. On Thursday we celebrated Chinese New Year. A huge thank you to 'Wok U Like' for their kind donation of food for the children to sample at snack time. It was very popular!

Snow Conditions **W**inter has definitely arrived with these chilly days and northerly winds. In the event of snow, we would like to advise you of our 'snow policy'. If at least two of the local primary schools are closed due to the snow, we will not be able to open either. Please check our website, Facebook page or phone the playgroup (07969924482) where we will leave a recorded message.



Photos on Facebook **W**e like to share our learning on Facebook by showing pictures of the lovely things the children are doing. We have received most of the permission forms back and we know who has requested that their child does not appear; some are happy if their child's face is not visible or at least non recognisable. If you haven't returned your form or if you want to confirm with us your position, then please speak with Mrs Dean.

Snack sharing **T**hank 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.

NHS 111 **T**he NHS in Hertfordshire is encouraging parents and carers to call NHS 111 if they need urgent medical help for their child. Additional advice includes talking to a pharmacist if their medical concern isn't urgent.

In Hertfordshire, when you call NHS 111, fully trained advisers will assess the callers' needs and can connect them to the right healthcare professional. Advisers can arrange a call back or face-to-face appointment with a GP or nurse if the caller needs one and they can also give them advice on how to look after their condition themselves and guidance on any medication you are prescribed.

You can get more information on keeping well this winter through this link: <https://hertsvalleysccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/self-care/winter-health>

Sessions for next term **W**e have a very full summer term ahead. A list is on the notice board asking which sessions you would like in the summer term. There are lots of afternoon spaces available as well as on Friday and Monday mornings. It's a good term to have longer days in readiness for reception. If you think you might be eligible for 30 hours of funding please check via the childcare choices government website. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> You will need to meet certain criteria which will be clear once you login.

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. 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, clearly named please.



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.

Any outgrown clothes would be greatly appreciated please, particularly girls leg-ins and boys track pants (for easy handling at toilet time.)

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.

In addition, we always welcome parent helpers to come and read a book, or do some painting with the children. It's best if your child has already settled in the setting. Please see Mrs Mills if you can assist in any way.

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 incomplete 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.



Staff

We welcome back Carla White. She will be volunteering every Thursday and Friday morning while she completes her Level 3 Early Years Qualification. Eleanor Pulestone will continue with her placement as part of her studies, on a Thursday morning.

Parent Survey

Hertfordshire childcare sufficiency - parent survey

Hertfordshire County Council is required to produce an annual childcare sufficiency report that is made available to the public. The report enables the council to understand the current market position across Hertfordshire for childcare.

The results of this survey will help us to plan for sufficient childcare places across Hertfordshire for all families. They request that as many parents as possible feed into this report via the links below

<https://bit.ly/2R0ETPW>



Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2020

Monday 6th January -Friday 3rd April
Mon 6th Jan - Inset day, playgroup closed
Tues 7th - current children return
Fri 10th Jan - new children's first visit 12.20
17th-21st February - Half term
Thursday 2nd April Easter event in church, everyone welcome 11.15-12.00; details to follow
Mon 6th Apr - Easter Holidays starts

Summer Term 2020

Monday 20 April- Friday 17 July
Mon 20th April Inset day - playgroup closed
Tue 21st April Current children return
Friday 24th April New children first visit 12.20
Friday 8th May Bank holiday
Mon 25th - Fri 29th May Half Term
Sunday 7th June Potters Bar Carnival
Friday 10th July Parent consultations:
July: Annual picnic/sports day/fundraising
July: End of term party