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Christmas is only a few weeks away so for the playgroup that means the annual Nativity Play, the children's Christmas party, Letter to Santa, parent consultations and lots of glittery pictures and cards! Information on all of these activities now follows:

Letter to Santa/Father Christmas



The letters which the children have written have now been sent. The children have walked, using the Walkodile to the postbox to post their letters. They chose some exciting gifts from the Argos catalogue! Lots of conversations about where each child lives, what number is on their house, what a stamp is all about and what happens to the letter once posted.



Parent Consultations

Consultations with your child's keyworker will take place from 14th December. We will give you your child's learning journal and a brief report to take home. This year, in order to follow Covid regulations we can offer a short chat on the phone or a quick chat outside if you wish to discuss your child's progress once you have read their report.

Remember that your child's keyworker is available for a chat at the end or beginning of the session, so just ask.



Snow Conditions

With winter almost here, there is the possibility of snow. We would like to remind 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 or phone the playgroup (07969924482) where we will leave a recorded message.



Fundraising

Thank you so much for your contributions towards the charity events we have supported in the last month. We raised £76.97 for Children in Need and £211 for Crackerjacks. In addition we thank you for the clothes items donated towards Phillipine typhoon victims.

Christmas Nativity

Thursday 17th
December, 10.45

Despite Covid we are still planning to perform our nativity event in our Rainbow Room rather than St John's Methodist church. All the children who attend St John's Nursery Playgroup are invited to take part for the whole session 8.55-1pm

This year, due to Covid, we are **not** able to invite family and friends to this wonderful event, sharing in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are exploring ways of streaming or recording the performance to a invited group so you can still see it. If you have any experience of, we would be grateful for help.



All the children are given the opportunity to wear a costume if they wish but we will not pressure any children to dress up if they don't want to, however please do not feel too disappointed if they refuse or change their mind - remember this is the first of many opportunities they will have to perform!

This year we will be filming the event and sharing it in a private event to parents via Facebook or

YouTube or possibly by emailing it to you. If you have any concerns about this, or any other issues concerning the nativity, please speak to Mrs Mills or Mrs Stone in complete confidence.



Children's Christmas Party

Following the nativity we are planning to have a party for the children. Please can you provide a 'party food' lunch box for your child on Thursday 17th December if you would like them to stay for lunch club. We will be making special decorations and playing party games

Remember we finish at 12.55 pm on this last day of term. This will give us time to clear up the playgroup rooms before we all head home and prepare for our own Christmas celebrations.

CAR PARK SAFETY NOTICE



Please can everyone using the St John's Methodist Church carpark for parking, drop off and collection show consideration for others. We have had several cases when other cars have been narrowly missed and where children have nearly been knocked over. We appreciate you may be in a hurry to get to work

or home, but the safety of our children far outweighs any other priorities. Please do not block anyone else in when you park but make use of the many parking spaces in the surrounding roads.

As pedestrians (or when out of your car), please make sure you hold your child's hand and keep them close to you. We will also reinforce holding hands with the a grown up when walking and moving near cars.

ALWAYS CHECK THAT THERE ARE NO CHILDREN MOVING IN THE CAR PARK BEFORE YOU MOVE. ALWAYS BE CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH OTHER CARS WHEN YOU MANOEUVRE



Extra session January 2021

If you would like your child to attend more or different sessions from January 2021, please email or text us your preferred sessions. We will let you know later in the term whether we have been able to allocate the changed sessions. As we have to ensure we are in ratio we may not be able to accommodate everyone's changes.

30 Hours Free Childcare

If you are already using the 30 hours free child care and received an eligibility code online, you will need to re-confirm eligibility online by 31st December 2020 by logging back into your Childcare Choices account.

For all new parents who may be eligible for 30 hours for free childcare from January 2021, you also have a deadline of 31st December 2020 to apply for an eligibility



Annual Stakeholders Meeting

The ASM was held on Friday 20th November. For the first time we used zoom for an online event. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend. If you would like a copy of the minutes of the meeting, please let Mrs Mills know and we can email a copy to you

Allergy alert and tissues



Please can we remind you that we have a child in the setting with severe allergies to **SESAME SEEDS, NUTS AND MILK**

And a reminders to cut grapes in half length ways to avoid choking and remember to put a spoon in the box if this is needed for any of your child's food items

We would also be grateful if every child could bring a box of tissues to help us keep the children's 'noses wiped' as much as possible.

Staff update

We were sorry to say goodbye to Mrs Karpasitis on 5 November. We wish her well in her new job as a TA in a local primary school. We did find a lovely lady to replace her from January 2021 but unfortunately she has decided to stay in her current position.

We are therefore looking for a **Playgroup Practitioner to join us from January**. If you already have several years experience of working in an early years setting, have a Level 3 (or willing to work towards) please speak with Mrs Mills. You may have a friend looking for a position, please share the information.

You can ask for an application form and a job description. We are advertising through County, on Facebook and on Indeed.

This is an amazing opportunity to join our lovely playgroup as part of the team.



Dates for your Diary

Thurs 17 Dec Nativity play (Covid dependant) plus...
Thurs 17 Dec—Christmas party and last day of term; we finish at 12.55

Spring Term 2021

4 January—26 March

Mon 4 Jan—Inset day, playgroup closed

Tue 5 Jan—current children return

From Thursday 7 January, new children's individual induction

15 Feb—19 Feb—Half term, playgroup closed

Thurs 25 March—Possible Easter Service in Church TBC

Summer Term 2021

12 April—16 July

Mon 12 April—Inset day, playgroup closed

Tue 13 April—current children return

From Thursday 15 April—new children's individual induction visit

Mon 3 May—Bank Holiday, playgroup closed

31 May—4 June—Half term, playgroup closed

Sunday 27 June Potters Bar Carnival—all families and staff invited to take part

July: Picnic, fundraising & sports day

July: End of term party