

Playgroup

ST JOHN'S
NURSERY
PLAYGROUPS



St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

Spring Term 2021

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www.stjohnsbakerstreet.co.uk
Facebook: St John's Nursery Playgroup Potters Bar



We welcome all the new children and families that have started with us this term. It has been a bit different this time as children have started at different times however it is 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/speak with you on the phone or at each end of the day although for now this has to take place outside.

Spring Term Theme So far this term we have looked at animals from the polar lands and explored ice and snow and its different properties. We have rescued animals stuck in lumps of ice and put water in the freezer which came out solid and then melted again..

We also had a Gingerbread Man themed week with lots of maths activities such as baking, counting and sorting buttons. The children were very good at repeating the words from the story

This week we are looking at how to celebrate Chinese New Year. We will be tasting different foods such as noodles and decorating the playgroup with dragons.

We post lots of photos of our activities on [Facebook: St John's Nursery Playgroup Potters Bar](#)

After Half term (15-19 February) the children will be accessing their learning through animals. We will compare different types of animals— farm, pet and wild, exploring their different lifestyles, habitats as well as the food they eat. In the past we have been able to invite various animals to playgroup for the children to meet them or visited local open farms but unfortunately we are not able to do that due to Covid. Please do help the children's learning by talking to them about the animals

Sessions for next term Please let us know which sessions you would like for the summer term,

there are lots of afternoon spaces available and some morning sessions too. 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 child-care choices government website. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>

You will need to meet certain criteria which will be clear once you login.

Snow Conditions

Winter 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.



CAR-PARK SAFETY REMINDER

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 CARPARK and BE CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH OTHER CARS WHEN YOU MA-

Home Learning

Early Years Alliance have put together a programme of learning for parents. As we are members of EYA, this is free to all parents. The programme is aimed at 0-2 years but some of the ideas can also be used for slightly older children. There are topics such as Creating awe and wonder through Science, Physical fun There are 6 sessions for you to access. Here is the link which you will need to cut and paste:

<https://www.eyalliance.org.uk/lets-learn-together-home>

Staff News

A Very warm welcome to Nazia Dziduch (Mrs G) and Anne Phillips who joined the team this term. With so many new children due to start in January, we needed additional staff as keyworkers. These ladies already have experience of working in settings so have quickly settled in although we delayed their start but they used the time to undertake Early Years additional training.

Clothing

Please ensure your child arrives at playgroup in appropriate clothing for a fun, messy, outdoor, indoor, painting, gluing, playdough, water, shaving foam, corn-flour, 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. Please think about the type of boots your child wears—can they take them off and put them back on by themselves?

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 leggings and boys track pants (for easy handling at toilet time.)

PLEASE NAME ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING, INCLUDING SHOES and GLOVES

Illnesses at Playgroup

We thank all our families for not bringing in your child when they are unwell. With the strict rules about washing hands frequently throughout the session as well as cleaning toys and equipment at the end of the day, we have so far avoided bringing Covid to the playgroup. Thank you also for wearing your masks at drop off and pick up times, this reduces the risk of parents infecting others.

We appreciate that it has been difficult not being able to bring your child right into the playgroup, but the children do not seem to be fazed by this. Remember that you can arrange for your keyworker to come out and speak with you or a phone call to discuss your child is absolutely fine.



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.



Crackerjacks Fund Raising Event

"Fund raising event Pyjama & Onesie Fun Day on 24 November—**THANK YOU**



We had a fun day dressing up in our pyjamas and onesies where you helped us to raise £211 to help Crackerjacks to be able to supply vital specialist disabled equipment such as wheelchairs, wet rooms, Eyegaze systems, sensory toys or a much needed respite break at their holiday home.

JAM JARS

Please can we ask you to bring in any cleaned glass jam jars which we need for a project later in the term.

Dates for your Diary

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 are invited to take part

July: Picnic, fundraising & sports day

July: End of term party