

# Playgroup News

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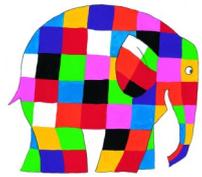
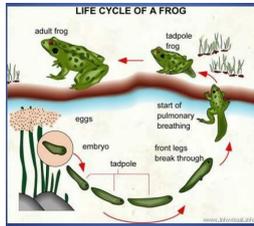


Summer 2021



## Summer 2021 Theme

The focus for this term has been Life Cycles and growing. The children have already seen the frog spawn turn into tadpoles who are getting larger by the day. We have celebrated and talked to the children about Ramadan and Eid including making special treats for Eid.



After the half term break we will start to talk about children transitioning to their new school, see the article opposite; we will also celebrate Father's Day. Elmer the Elephant will inspire our learning where we will be talking about differences and similarities and how we are all important and special. PLEASE COULD YOU BRING YOUR WASHED, EMPTY PLASTIC MILK CONTAINERS for this project :-)

**Covid** The majority of the staff team have now received at least one of their covid jabs and most have had their second one too. The whole team continue to test themselves twice weekly. We are also still cleaning the toys, tables, climbing equipment and everyone is washing hands and using hand sanitizers throughout the sessions. We are allowing individual visitors to the playgroup including professionals who come to support individual children. We will be inviting reception and nursery teachers to meet the children going to their schools later in the term. We will follow advice in relation to facemasks and distance as well as making sure fresh air blows covid away.

**Staff News** We are pleased to welcome back Mrs Claire Dean who has joined us for the summer term. We have several children requiring 1:1 support this term so an additional staff member was needed to ensure we work within safe ratios at all times. Mrs Conyers operation was very successful and the clips have been removed. She has been able walk short distances. We hope to welcome her back from 14 June.



**Supporting Your Children** Children develop at different rates and at different ages. At St John's 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; transition support; recognising their name and for those who are showing an interest, writing their name.

See the following link which gives excellent advice for pre-writing skills: <https://childdevelopment.com.au/areas-of-concern/writing/writing-readiness-pre-writing-skills/>

Another excellent web page to give ideas for maths for Under 5's is <https://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/activities-for-children>

## 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 local schools. There will be lots of discussions about what the children can expect at their new school.



We have invited teachers from the reception and nursery schools to visit in July. They have a chance to meet the children joining their school. We have sent home a very useful poster entitled **Am I ready for school? Tips for parents (for children going into reception)**.

## Child Safety Week

Designated child safety week is 7-13

June. We will be displaying different posters and posting them on Facebook and on our website. There are many hidden dangers in our homes and while playing outside. Teaching your child road safety and being aware of dangers can help to keep them safe.

All the staff at St John's attend regular paediatric First Aid courses to be ready to deal with any emergency. However according to Child Accident Prevention Trust: **'80% of accidents to under-fives are in the home and 40000 children are admitted to hospital as an emergency after an accident at home'**

## Eco Church

St John's Methodist Church has signed up to Eco Church and should receive their Bronze reward shortly.

As we are part of the church, the playgroup wanted to do our part in helping to achieve it. We will introduce new habitats (we need to build a bug/insect house and a couple of bird nesting boxes); provide food for the birds (we need new feeders). We already have some plants which insects like and thank you for the herbs which were supplied by a parent. We need more flowering plants for our beds, pots and hanging baskets ready to encourage wildlife. If you can help with any of the items we would be most grateful.

We have also signed up for Wildlife Trust's 30 days wild and plan to take a good look at nature in the local area including the allotments.

## Reminders and requests...

**D**ays 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. Please text, WhatsApp or email your required changes.

Numbers are low for the autumn term so please recommend us to families and friends. We can give you some leaflets if you would like to hand them out although we have always found recommendations via word-of-mouth the best.

If you work you may be entitled to claim 30 hours of free early years childcare. Please check [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) website for eligibility

## Parent Consultations

**T**he parent consultations will take place from week commencing Monday 5th July, specific timings and details will be advised closer to the time.

Leavers reports will be going out w/c 28th June so you will have time to read it before the consultation and raise any queries you may have. Each consultation will be for 10 minutes. 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.

## Sunscreen

**H**opefully the warm weather will be with us again soon. We have plenty of St John's Nursery 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 has an allergy to some sun creams, please let us know and then you can provide your own.



**W**e would ask that children still wear sensible shoes and sandals, some flip-flops with a back strap don't give the children the support their feet need when using the climbing equipment.

## Food Vouchers

If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old you could be entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers worth £4.25 per child per week (£8.50 if under 1) to spend on milk, plain fresh or frozen fruit and vegetables, and instant formula milk. You can also use them to buy pulses and canned fruit and vegetables as long as they have no fat, salt, sugar or other flavouring added. The vouchers can be redeemed at local retailers. To be eligible you should be in receipt of certain means-tested benefits. **Check your eligibility now.** Pregnant under 18 years olds qualify whether or not they are entitled to a qualifying benefit.

## Dates for your Diary

### 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

Thursday 6 May - Polling day, playgroup closed

31 May–4 June—Half term, playgroup closed

~~Sunday 27 June Potters Bar Carnival—cancelled due to Covid~~

5-10 July - Parent consultations

14 July: Picnic, fundraising & sports day

July: goodbye and end of term party

**Fees from September will be £6.20/hour**

### Autumn Term 2021

**6 September - 17 December**

October - Harvest festival - TBC

25-29 October - Half Term, playgroup closed

16 December - Nativity in church