



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

Letter to Santa/Father Christmas



You should receive a letter asking permission for your child to join in the writing to Santa/Father Christmas activity and requesting a 2nd class stamp or 66 pence. If Christmas is a celebration that you as a family do not celebrate we can arrange for a different letter to be sent direct to you.

Once the children have written their letters to Santa, we will walk with them to the post box to post their letters using the Walkodile. Letters must be with the post office by Friday 3rd December. We would appreciate some parent helpers that week to accompany us on the walk. Extra warm clothing may also be needed if it's particularly cold.



Parent Consultations

Consultations with your child's keyworker will take place from **Wednesday 8th December**. We will give you your child's learning journal and a brief report to take home earlier in the week; please remember to bring it back with you for your 10 minute appointment.

There is a form on the notice board stating when your 10 minute appointment time will be. This is a time to discuss your child's progress with their keyworker.



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.



Christmas Nativity

FRIDAY 17th

December, 11.15am

We are planning to perform our nativity event in our St John's Methodist church. All the children who attend St John's Nursery Playgroup are invited to take part. Family and friends are invited to attend this wonderful event, sharing in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Coffee and mince pies will be served in the Clifton Room from 10.40am and parents can take their seats (entering via the Clifton Room entrance) in the church from 11.00 where you will be able to view pictures from our sessions. If you are able to help serve refreshments before the service, please let us know.



Children who attend on Fridays should be dropped off at the normal time at 8.55am, the remaining children (ie those who do not attend on a Friday) are to be dropped off at 10.40am. Please let us know if your child will be attending (using the form on the notice board) (note we finish at 12.00 on this LAST DAY OF TERM).

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! We are looking to borrow some children's dressing gowns on the day, if you have one we could borrow, please bring it in, **clearly labeled**.

The car park usually gets packed so please park considerably and avoid blocking cars in; we encourage you to walk if at all possible. In the past we have allowed parents to take pictures and videos (as unobtrusively as possible please), however we can only allow this with the agreement of all parents - 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. Videos and photos must not be uploaded onto social media sites e.g. Facebook



Children's Christmas Party

Tuesday 14th December 11.30am—2.00pm.

We would like to invite all the children, whether they attend on a Tuesday or not to join the Christmas party

During the party we will have time for making Christmas crafts and party games. We will provide lunch and finish with Smartie Artie who will entertain the children between 1 and 2 pm in the main hall at the front of the building. The party food will be sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, snacks, and party treats and including fruit squash or water.



We ask for a contribution of £3.00 from every child to go towards the days activities.

- Children who attend Tuesday mornings arrive at normal time (8.55) but can stay until 2pm.
- Children who **do not** attend Tuesday morning are invited to arrive at 11.30.
- Children who attend Tuesday afternoons, are also invited to arrive at 11.30.
- Children who normally are with us on a Tuesday afternoon can stay until the usual 3.00pm pick up time.

In order to make this day possible we will need parent helpers to help us prepare the lunch, set up the rooms and to generally help with the children.

A form will be on the notice board for you to let us know if your child will be attending and if you are able to help on the day

30 Hours Free Childcare

If you are already using the 30 hours free child care and have received an eligibility code online, you will need to re-confirm eligibility online by 31st December 2021 by logging back into your Childcare Choices account.

For all new parents who may be eligible for 30 hours for free childcare from January 2022, you also have a deadline of 31st December to apply for an eligibility code on the childcare choices website.

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Please note we have spaces for children to join us in January. DO share with potential new families

Annual Stakeholders Meeting

The ASM will be on Monday 15th via ZOOM at 16:30 Please see separate letter. Please join us for the short meeting. The report will be available to read in the Upper Room; if you would like your own copy, please let us know.

Fruit Sharing & Tissues Please bring in some fruit each week for children to share. We will provide the carbohydrates and protein ranging from bagels, crackers, pitta bread, crumpets, popcorn, humus and cheese! Thank you for the lovely fruit provided each week

Please could we just remind you that if you put grapes in your child's lunchbox then you must slice them length ways to avoid choking.



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

Extra session January 2022

If you would like your child to attend more or different sessions from January 2022, please note changes on the form on the noticeboard. If you do not want to change sessions, please write 'same'. 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.

Children in Need On Friday 19 November we will be raising money for

Children in Need. Please can the children wear something with dots or stripes or a bright pattern. We will be making biscuits with colourful patterns and talking to the children about how other children may not have everything we take for granted. We will talk about how we can help others by being kind and helpful, but also how sometimes we need extra money to buy special equipment or other ways we can help. Please help us by donating to this cause

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2021

Sat 13 Nov 10.30-13.00 Christmas mini market. See slip
Mon 15 Nov - 16.30 ZOOM Annual Stakeholders Meeting, details sent already. All welcome to join
Fri 19 Nov: Children in need Fundraising
From Wed 8 Dec Parent Consultations
Tues 14th Dec 11.30-2pm Mon Children's Christmas party, all children invited
Fri 17th Dec - Nativity Play 11.15am also —LAST DAY OF TERM closing at 12.00

Spring Term 2022—5 January—1 April

Weds 5 Jan—Inset day, playgroup closed
Thur 6 Jan—current children return
Fri 7 January new children induction 12.20
14 Feb—18 Feb—Half term, playgroup closed
Thurs 31 March—Possible Easter Service in Church

Summer Term 2022—19 April—22 July

Tues 19 April—Inset day, playgroup closed
Wed 20 April—current children return
Fri 22 April 12.20 —new children's induction visit
Mon 2 May Bank holiday, playgroup closed
Mon 30 May—Fri 3 June Half term, playgroup closed
June Potters Bar Carnival (awaiting date)
Week commencing 11 July parent consultations
July: Picnic, fundraising & sports day
July: End of term party