



We welcome all the new children and families that have started with us this Term. It is 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 Themes

This term we are looking at who we are, what we can do, what we look like and how we are all equally treasured and special whatever our religion, skin colour, size or ability.

We have been talking about other cultures; their celebrations and languages. Our resources are very inclusive with books, jigsaws, poster and play figures, including dolls, representing all family compositions and ethnicities. Children understand our kindness rules and how we should care for others. We use many different ways to teach language and communication through books, games, stories and toys; Stories such as family compositions, about 'no money day' which generate lots of language and interest. We are all trained to use WellComm, Makaton, Elklan, Word Aware. We have started the journey of using the resource Terrific Talkers to make sure we pitch our support for each child at the right level

We celebrated Chinese New Year and as it is the year of the Rabbit we made some lovely bunny plates. Thank you to Sophie's mum who came in to explain about the festival. We are taking part in 'Children's mental health week' 6-10 February; talking about feelings, caring, keeping calm, expressing our frustrations verbally. Then we will start to look at different occupations/jobs in our community. Please see the separate letter for more information and how you can help. Mothers Day and Easter will take us to the end of term. Lots of exciting opportunities to learn new words.

Please do have a look at the wonderful art work the children produced for each topic. Some lovely painted self portraits, name train and super lanterns.

### Snack sharing

Thank 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

The NHS in Hertfordshire is encouraging parents and carers to call NHS 111 if they need urgent medical help for their child. Additionally 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

If you would like more sessions or wish to change sessions, please let us know. There is a list on the notice board asking which sessions you would like in the summer term. It is a good term to have some 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/> before 31

### March

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, 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 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 our clothes and underwear i.e. if they have an 'accident' please could you wash and return the loaned clothes as soon as possible.

## Crackerjacks

We have been approached by Crackerjacks Children's Trust to help with some fundraising for a local child who needs some specific equipment to help him to gain more independence.

So on Tuesday 7th March we will hold a sponsored fancy dress day. Any fancy dress from home, or we have lots which the children can wear. There will be a bucket for you to place any donations.



## 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 any 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.



## Early Years Alliance, Family Corner

St John's Nursery Playgroups are members of Early Years Alliance. They provide us with speedy updates of news and regulations, provide learning for the staff team on Educare, actively campaign for better financing, better conditions on behalf of Early Years settings.

In addition they have a 'Family Corner' which is free to all families through their link: <https://www.familycorner.co.uk>. There are lots of articles such as internet safety, World Book day and short courses/webinars which you may want to join

## World Book Day

We will be celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March**. Children of all ages will come together around the world to share the joy of reading for pleasure. Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their future success and it's fun for all involved. Audio books can be accessed through this link <https://www.worldbookday.com/share-a-story-corner/>



If your child would like to dress up on this day as a favourite character they will be able to

## Mother language day 21 February

As part of celebrating our uniqueness and different languages we would like help from you to learn **Head Shoulders knees and Toes** in several other languages. Please could you come to playgroup to help the children to sing the song in your language? This also ties in with 'International Mother Language Day' which is observed every year on February 21 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism around the world. Language is not just a means of communication but it also represents vast

## Dates for your Diary

### Spring Term 2023

#### 9 January— 31 March (11 weeks)

Mon 9 Jan—current children return

Fri 13 January new children induction 12.20

13 Feb—17 Feb—Half term, playgroup closed

Thur 2 March World Book Day - see above

Tues 7 March: Crackerjacks fancy dress fundraising

Thurs 30 March—Possible Easter Service in Church TBC

### Summer Term 2023

#### 17 April—21 July (13 weeks)

Monday 17 April Inset day, playgroup closed

Tuesday 18 April—current children return

Fri 21 April 12.20 —new children's induction visit

Mon 30 May—Fri 3 June Half term, playgroup closed

Sun 11 June Potters Bar Carnival

Week commencing 10 July parent consultations

July: Picnic, fundraising & sports day