

Playgroup News

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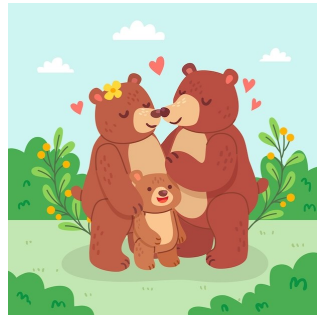


Spring Term 2024

We welcome all the new children and families that have started with us this January. It's lovely to see the new children settling into the busy life of St John's so quickly. 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

The children have been exploring the **Three Little Pigs** with activities involving building and what building materials are best to use and copying repeated refrains...."I'll huff and I'll puff...." Story sequencing next, then, later. Some great artwork of the three little pigs houses using straw and sticks, the bricks were too heavy for the paper so we printed bricks with sponges. We also focussed on **Goldilocks and the three bears**, which lent it self to lots of mathematical language and 'stranger, danger' conversations with the older children. Another week of focussing on our mental health and naming and recognising our feeling and what to do if we are sad or angry. Chinese New Year was celebrated through stories, food and dancing



This half term we will be focussing on nature—planting and what plants need to grow; looking at flowers and going for walks while looking for signs of spring. World Book day, Mothers Day, Holi and Easter at the end of the term (see separate invitation)

Staff News

A warm welcome to Alison Skinner who joined us at the beginning of the Spring term. She is the keyworker for our red parrot children. Also welcome to Jolanta Georgiou who starts this week. She will be a red elephant group. Mrs Georgiou is now our second staff member with a level 5 qualification

We also continue to have a number of volunteers who join us regularly. Two of these are currently studying for an Masters in Education at University of Hertfordshire. David Rhodes is not only volunteering at both our playgroups but will also be joining the Playgroup Board.

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**
7 MARCH 2024

Thursday 7th March is designated World Book Day.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

We will be participating in this special day by asking children to dress up as their favourite book character. We have lots of dressing up outfits which you can borrow. There are some lovely ideas more suitable to our younger children on the BBC tiny happy people website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/world-book-day>

Sessions for next term

We have a busy time ahead for the summer term so please let us know which sessions you would like next term. A list is on the notice board, please indicate there your requirement. For the children who will start reception in September, a couple of full days can help them to get used to longer days.

Clothing

Please ensure your child arrives at playgroup in appropriate clothing for a fun, messy, outdoor, indoor, painting, gluing, playdough, water, shaving foam, cornflour, 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.

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 leg-ins and boys track bottoms and pants (for easy handling at toilet time.)



Illnesses at Playgroup

Thank you parents for keeping us informed if your children are unwell and not able to join us.



There is considerable NHS concern about children who have not had their measles/MMR vaccinations. See this link for more information: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

Measles is a preventable disease which can leave you with long term side effect which can be serious. Measles can also affect your unborn baby if you are pregnant, so it is really important to keep up to date with your child's immunisations. A separate email has been sent with more information

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.

Photos on Facebook

We hope you all enjoy the lovely pictures which we post on our Facebook page. It is just a small snapshot of all the wonderful learning activities the children have the opportunity to learn from every day.

Church links

Creative Church is on Sunday mornings at St John's Methodist Church.

All the family are warmly invited to the informal Creative Church craft mornings which take place monthly in the Rainbow Room. The dates are: Sundays 17th March, 14th April, 19th May, 16th June from 10.30-11.50am crafts for all the family in Rainbow room/main hall followed by short celebration in church. - art, craft, games, cooking, singing, food, bible story, toy corner, crèche and refreshments.

Palm Sunday Special - Sunday 24th

March: 10.30 - 11.40am themed crafts and celebration for everyone in the main hall

Sunday 7th July: 10.30am Informal morning service at Morven Guide Centre followed by BBQ and games afternoon combined with Scout weekend camp

Scout Jumble Sale - Saturday 9th March, £2 at 10am or 50p at 10.30am, entry from Heather Way

Scout Spring Market - Saturday 1st June, 10.30am-1pm, various stalls, games, refreshments, BBQ

Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2024 - 11 weeks

5 January - 28 March (11 weeks)

Friday 5th Jan—current children return - MORNING ONLY

Friday 5th January new children induction 12.20

Monday 19 - Friday 23 February Half term, playgroup closed

Thursday 7 March World Book Day dressing up day

Thurs 28 March—Easter Service in Church
THURSDAY 28 MARCH. LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM

Summer Term 2024

15 April - 19 July (13 weeks)

Monday 15 April - Inset day

Tuesday 16 April - current children return

Friday 19 April new children induction **no afternoon session**

Monday 6 May - Bank holiday playgroup closed
Monday 27 - Friday 31 Half term, playgroup closed

Sunday 9 June - Potters Bar Carnival. All families invited to take part.

Week commencing Monday 1 July - parent consultations

Friday 19 July Picnic, sports day, end of term event at Furzefield open space and woods

FRIDAY 19 JULY. LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

Autumn Term 2024

2 September - Friday 13 December (14 weeks)

Monday 2 Sept—inset day

Tuesday 3 Sept—first day of term

Friday 6 Sept new children induction, **no afternoon session!**

Monday 28 Oct - Friday 1 Nov Half Term, playgroup closed