

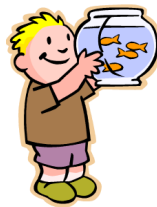


We welcome the new children and families that have started with us this Term. Your child's keyworker is available to see you at the beginning or at the end of the session if there is anything you wish to discuss regarding your child or children.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER WILL EITHER NEED TO BE TYPED IN OR COPY AND PASTED FROM THE OUR WEBSITE OR EMAILED COPY

Summer Theme

The focus for this term has been Life Cycles and Growing. The tiny little caterpillars turned into butterflies and we watched them fly away. We had the beautiful chicks which we saw hatch and then quickly grow. They have moved to Liam's garden. The tadpoles growing; we now have several cute little froglets. We plan to go for lots of walks, looking at how plants are getting bigger and visiting the local allotment. We are learning lots of science while playing with water, fitting pipes together, seeing how quickly the ball runs down the pipe when you tilt it. Exploring natural materials such as pine cones, wood offcuts, leaves and stones all help to enhance natural learning. For the last few weeks of the term or topic will be 'Pets'. We hope you might bring in your pets to meet the children. Letter to follow



Internet Safety We cannot overstate the importance of keeping your children safe on the internet. It is often easy for them to access unsuitable content if you don't have parental control set up. Chicken Clicking is a good book to start talking to your child. This link is useful: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

Teeth As children are increasingly presenting with tooth decay across the country, we are keen to help our children to have better teeth health. We regularly talk to the children about what foods are not good for our teeth and how we need to brush them every day. We advise that you sign up with a dentist for your child as soon as they start on solid food so they can get used to going



Potters Bar Carnival 9 June 2024

Unfortunately we had to cancel our day at the carnival as there were insufficient staff available on the day. Maybe we can make it bigger and better next year

Library & Story sacks

Children already regularly borrow our books to read at home. We have started to lend out story sacks which can make reading a story more interactive. If you would like to borrow one of these please ask your child's keyworker. We only have a small selection currently but will be expanding the choice over the coming terms.



NEXT TERM SESSIONS

With around 25 children leaving at the end of the summer term, we have lots of spaces from September onwards. Please note your choice of additional sessions on the form on the notice board or contact us via text or email. If you think you might be eligible for 30 hours of funding for your 3 year old or 15 hours for your 2 year old because you work, please check via the childcare choices government website. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> **before 31 August.** You will need to meet certain criteria which will be clear once you login. You may also be able to take advantage the Tax Free childcare scheme on the same website. Please let friends know that we have spaces available from September (who have children of play-group age)

Mini me's

We have recently introduced Mini Me's to the children. So if they tell you they have a picture of themselves on a little wooden block—that's the mini me. It means they can take 'themselves' into play. They can be the traindriver, the hero, the mummy, daddy, brother or sister while playing with other small world characters. We also found out that if your child's best friend isn't it, they can just borrow their mini me to play with. A really popular addition to their play.

Hopefully the warm weather will start at some point. We have plenty of St John's Playgroup hats which the children wear when outside in the sun. We would ask you to apply sun cream to your children before coming into playgroup. If it's particularly hot and sunny, we can give the children a top up. If your child does have an allergy to some sun creams, please let us know and you may choose to provide your own.



We ask that children still wear sensible shoes and sandals with a back strap; flip-flops are not suitable as they don't give the children the support their feet need when using the climbing equipment.

Supporting your children

Children de-

velop 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 to distinguish between everyday sounds and some 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/>

Church Summer BBQ

You and your family are all invited to the Church summer Barbeque taking place on Sunday 7th July at Morven Guide Centre. We start with an outdoor Sunday service at 11, followed by a BBQ and games afternoon. Includes lunch, dessert and hot drinks—please bring your own drinks and you may want to bring a picnic blanket and chairs. No charge but voluntary donations welcome. Games and activities will be organised for all ages. Everyone who uses the church (such as for playgroup, Jumping John's and their families are very welcome but needs to be pre-booked. More details from Margaret Rhodes 07979858458 Further information to follow



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 are having visits from the reception and nursery teachers from your child's new school. Several teachers have booked in already. This gives the teachers the opportunity to see the child in an educational setting where they are already settled. We will note on the notice board which teachers are visiting when. We also have a lovely poster with tips for parents about getting their child ready for school

Dates for your Diary

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 May Half term, playgroup closed
 Sunday 9 June - Potters Bar Carnival.
 Week commencing Monday 1 July - parent consultations
THURSDAY 4 JULY—PLAYGROUP CLOSED, POLLING DAY
 Friday 19 July Picnic, sports day, end of term event at Furze field 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
 Photographer—date to be confirmed
 Christmas party Date to be confirmed
 Nativity provisional date Friday 13 December