



## POTTERS BAR CARNIVAL Sunday 8th June 2014

To the Parents and Carers of children attending St John's Nursery Playgroups at St John's Methodist Church and Oakmere School. It is nearly time for the 2014 Potters Bar Carnival. We hope to see lots of families from both of our settings.

Our theme this year will be farm animals to tie in with the topic for the first half of the summer term. Following Baker Street's visit to Hatfield House Farm on 22nd May, we hope it has inspired you to be creative in your farm animal costumes!

We have already been exploring the animals that live on a farm, their shelter i.e. pig sty or hen coup and what some animals produce. So far we have had some great conversations with the children which have included the names of baby animals. The theme also ties in with life cycles for example the chicks which at Baker Street hatched in early May and at Oakmere, are due to hatch after half term.

**At playgroup, we will be making with the children:**

- Farm animal masks and headbands
- Large painted 'cut out' animals
- Farmers' hats

**Other suggestions for outfits which you could make at home:**

- Tabards of farm animals - cardboard cut into the animal shape and painted appropriately/ decorated e.g.: for a sheep you could stick on wool, for a chicken stick on feathers.
- For a horse: black, brown, white horse coloured clothing with horse mask made by your child
- For a Cow: depending on the breed, brown/beige Jersey, black/white marked Friesian, long haired breed - furry coat? - with the cow mask, with or without horns depending on breed
- Hen or chicken
- Animal onesies with a homemade tail!



I am sure you will have lots of ideas yourselves, but please do use as many of the children's creations as possible which will be available to take home the week running up to the carnival. It's the playgroup/homemade creations that are noticed by the many local people who line the road through the town to watch the parade.

**WHEN:** Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**WHERE:** Meet in the Mount Grace School Grounds, by the Mount Grace Road Entrance, Potters Bar (entrance for the Sports Centre). Please park in Mount Grace School car park at top of school and not in Mount Grace Road as the procession will need all possible space on that road. Or better still - get a lift so no cars are left in the way of the floats - it is a busy road once we are all ready to walk.

**TIME:** No later than 12.30pm as judging will take place from 12.45pm (staff will be there from 12.00).

**BRING:** We recommend bringing a packed lunch and drinks, as there is quite a lot of hanging about at the beginning! A (suitably decorated) buggy - it can be a long walk. It's a good idea to apply sun cream before you come as we are often fortunate to have warm sunny weather.

**WEAR:** As above. In addition, we will have lots of items for the children to hold or wear on the day.

**FINISH:** The whole procession will enter the field at Elm Court and continue into the arena where results of the winning floats will be announced before we are formally dispersed. You can then go and enjoy the Carnival.

**PLEASE NOTE ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT** - the playgroup staff will not be able to take responsibility for the care or safety of any of the children.



Please let us know ASAP if you are able to join us; brothers, sisters and other family members are very welcome too, but please can everyone attending dress to the theme! You are welcome to bring buggies - decorated according to the theme would be great! Please support us - it will be fun!

We are looking forward to a great day and seeing you all there. Contact numbers on the day are 07969 924482 or 07711 510556.

St John's Methodist Church will have a stall at the carnival where you can go for a free drink and some fun activities for your children as well as being able to buy cakes, jams and pickles.

Below are some more ideas to help you in your creativity!