

September 2015

Playgroup News

ST JOHN'S
NURSERY
PLAYGROUPS

St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

Mobile: 07969 924482 email: enquiries@stjohnsbakerstreet.co.uk www.stjohnsbakerstreet.co.uk
This newsletter, other correspondence and full playgroup information is available on our website

Welcome to all the new families that have joined us this September and welcome back to the families that returned after the summer holidays. The new children are settling in to the busy and lively routine of the playgroup. It's a busy term on the run up to Christmas with lots of new experiences for the children.

This Terms Topics

Please see our very comprehensive letter that is going out this week giving full details of what activities and events are coming up.

This term our main theme is People in Our Community. The first two weeks of term we were hearing from the children about the children's experiences of their summer holidays, they have produced some lovely pictures for our wall.

This week and next we are looking at Vets and how to care for animals. We have already had a visit from a pet snake, thank you Mr & Mrs Hayward. Mrs Turner has brought in her 56 year old tortoise who loves to hide in a wellington boot! We hope to meet Mrs Butterfield's two



Spaniels. If you have a pet that you think would cope visiting the playgroup, please speak with Mrs Mills or Mrs Mash.

Week commencing 5th October for two weeks we will be celebrating the Harvest Festival. If we have any chefs, bakers, cooks or caterers amongst the parents or carers that would like to come in and make something simple with the children, then please speak with Mrs Mills.

Later in the term we will be looking at Doctors, Nurses, Dentists as well as Firemen - during Fireworks week; Policemen, Armed Forces and Hairdressers! We will also be celebrating Diwali, and of course Christmas with our very unique Nativity Play on Thursday 17th December.

If you have anything you would like to contribute or want to get involved, please speak with the leadership team.

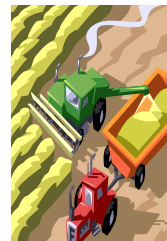
Staff & Student News

Due to medical reasons, we are very sad to lose our apprentice Sarah Cornwell. Sarah was with us for two years and was amazing with the children and supporting the staff with the routines of the playgroup. We wish Sarah all the best in the future.

We welcome Bobbie Welling, Layla's mum who is studying her Level 2 Introduction to Early Years. Ms Welling will be with us on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have a student from Oaklands College starting very soon on Wednesdays and Fridays. We hope to be taking on another apprentice in the not too distant future.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating the Harvest Festival on Thursday 8th October. We invite all the children



and their families to a special ceremony from 11.30am. We will take the children into the church to look at the magnificent decorations followed by a harvest story and the children will sing you some songs. More information will follow including what items Whitechapel would like to be donated on the noticeboard.

Photographer

On the Thursday 22nd October, Brett Lenman, a competent child photographer will be taking individual photos of all the children during the morning (fully supervised by a member of staff). If you would prefer your child not to be photographed, please speak with Mrs Mash, there is no obligation to buy. If you would like a photo with school aged siblings, you are welcome to come at 8.20 before school. Children with younger siblings are welcome to arrive at 9.00am even if your child doesn't normally attend on a Thursday.

Children who attend on a Thursday afternoon are invited to attend at 9.00am to have their child's photo taken as the photographer will not be here in the afternoon.



Library Books

The book borrowing scheme is up and running. For new parents, useful information is included in your book bag. We hope your children are keen to borrow a book and that you spend invaluable quiet time together reading the story and talking about the pictures. Could we ask you to ensure your child's book is returned every week and we will endeavour to make sure they go home with a new book every week.



Barnado's Big Toddle Waddle

We would like to thank all the families who joined the Barnados' Big Toddle Sponsored Walk which took place at the Furzefield in July. We had another fantastic day, the weather was brilliant and we raised £403 for Barnados. Thank you for your efforts in fundraising for this important annual event.



Treasure Chest

At St John's we have a treasure chest which is primarily for children who need to bring in a comforter ranging from a cuddly toy, an old muslin or any other object that a child has formed a special bond with that will give them comfort if they 'wobble' during the morning. We are finding it is turning into a very large lost property chest. If you bring in an item for your child, whether it is a comforter or item of clothing, please remember to take it home. Don't forget to label all clothing too. Thank you.



Learning Journal



Your child's learning journal is available to view at any time, please speak with your child's key worker and don't forget to take a 'You're a Star at Home' slip which can be added to the journal, located in the green plastic pocket at the end of the notice board.

Playgroup Polo-Shirts



St John's Nursery Playgroup polo-shirts are available from Lee Joys. They cost £5.50 for one or £15.00 for three. We have a few second-hand shirts which you can purchase for a donation of £1, please see Mrs Mash.

Annual Stakeholders Meeting

The next Stakeholders meeting will be in November at St John's Methodist Church - date and time to be confirmed. All parents, carers, staff and interested parties from both settings will be invited to attend as we would really appreciate your views, ideas and feedback. We will be looking for new parent reps, if you are interested, please speak to Mrs Mills.

Fruit Sharing, Birthday Treats & Lunches



At St John's we promote healthy eating and ask the children to bring in a piece of fruit once or twice a week to share with the other children to supplement what we provide: pitta bread, humus, crackers, cheese, bagels, oat biscuits, vegetable sticks, bread sticks, raisins and more.

Birthday treats can be supplied in the form of fruit either fresh, dried or exotic! These special fruits will be served at snack time to celebrate your child's birthday.

Lunch box contents, once again we would like to encourage you to pack healthy foods - great ideas are on the notice board. Please ensure you provide just enough food for lunch, some boxes are quite full and the children can spend too long eating and not enough playing! We would also ask if you could save treats for home please as other children can look on enviously at 'little chocolate wrappers'!



IMPORTANT NOTICE

We have two children with nut allergies and one child with an allergy to egg. If your child attends lunch club, please do **not** include peanut butter, Nutella or egg sandwiches. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Sessions

Once again we are very busy now and in the coming terms. We have and will get many requests for morning sessions which are at a premium! If you would consider and it works for you, your child could have a full day with us i.e. 9-2.45 and drop a morning session which will create space for new children and provide lots of opportunities for you - allowing you to get a part time job, longer time shopping, getting all the housework done in one day or catching up with friends! There may even be brothers or sisters of your children waiting to start and we want to do the best for every child. If you think this could work for you, please speak with Mrs Mills.

Mobile Phone Use

A reminder that mobile phones are not to be used on playgroup premises in line with statutory requirements. The Playgroup uses a mobile phone for playgroup use only (as the mainline phone is in the hallway). Digital photos of the children are taken for their learning journals. These photos are monitored and managed by the Leadership team. If you have any concerns regarding this ruling, please speak with Mrs Mills.

Old Birthday Cards

We celebrate your child's birthday at playgroup with a mock cake but real candles and create a unique birthday card for them. Our stock of birthday cards is running low so we would really appreciate your child's old birthday cards if you are willing, so we can create new ones for the children. Thank you!



Via Email...

If you would like to receive the newsletter and any other playgroup notices via email, please speak with Mrs Mash. Let's save a tree to two! Newsletters are also available on our website. Please do contact us by email if you have any queries.



Children's Centres PB1 and Furzefield

The Autumn programme is available on line either via their website www.hertsmere-children.co.uk or Facebook www.facebook.com/HertsmereChildrensCentres. We have the programme displayed on our notice board. We would like to highlight there are several speech clinics available which may be of interest to some of you:

Speech and Language Assessment Clinic
7/10, 4/11 and 2/12 at the Furzefield Centre from 1.00-3.00pm.

Speech and Language Play and Stay
7/10 and 2/12 at PB1 from 9.30-11

There are other specialty courses available that are displayed on our notice board.

Creative Church

All the family are invited to our informal Creative Church at St John's Methodist Church on Sundays 4th October, 1st November and 6th December from 10.30am-12.15pm art, craft, games, cooking, singing, food, bible story, toy corner and crèche available



Notice Board

We have a very comprehensive notice board of news, notices, requests and important information to do with St John's Nursery Playgroup. Please take the time to check regularly for new items.

We also have a section 'Services in the Community' which features local events including Speech and Language drop in clinics, information of what's happening in your local children's centres, Ofsted posters, notices from Herts County Council and finally, activities and services for parents and children.

We are also currently running posters on healthy lunch boxes, always useful if you are looking for new ideas to include in their lunch box!

Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2015

Wed 2nd Sept - Fri 18th December
Thur 8 Oct—Harvest Event in the Church
Thurs 22nd Oct from 8.20am - Photographer
26th - 30th Oct Half Term PLAYGROUP CLOSED
November TBA Annual Stakeholders Meeting
Thurs 17th Dec - Nativity Play 11.30am Start
Fri 18th Dec - Xmas party all children invited and parent helpers required
Fri 18 Dec - last day of term

Spring Term 2016

Mon 4th Jan - Fri 1st April
Mon 4th CLOSED—INSET DAY
Tues 5th Jan - children start back
Fri 8th Jan New children visit 1.30-2.45
15th-19th Feb Half term, PLAYGROUP CLOSED
Fri 25 & Mon 28 Easter Weekend PLAYGROUP CLOSED
Mon 4th Apr-Fri 15th Apr Easter Holidays PLAYGROUP CLOSED

Summer Term 2016

Mon 18Apr - Fri 22 July
Mon 18th Apr CLOSED - INSET DAY
Tues 19th Apr children start back
Fri 22nd Apr New Children visit 1.30-2.45
30 May - 3rd June Half term PLAYGROUP CLOSED
Fri 22nd July last day of term

Dates to be advised

Barnado's Big Toddle & Farewell Picnic
May - Voting Day