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This newsletter, other correspondence and full playgroup information is available on our website

People in our Community

We've had some great learning and activities around our theme of People in our Community this term. We had two visits from Potters Bar Fire Brigade, the first visit had to be cut short as they were called to a rescue, the next visit the children had the opportunity to squirt water from the huge hose from their truck. See our photo display! We will have a visit from a Policeman and a young man from the Armed Forces next month.

Parent Consultations

Consultations with your child's keyworker will take place on **Friday 11th December**. Parents who have recently had a 2 year old consultation will not need a consultation at this time. We will give you your child's learning journal to take home earlier in the week; please remember to bring it back with you for your 10 minute appointment. Later this month, there will be a form on the notice board where you can log your preferred 10 minute appointment time.

If your child is staying with us in the spring term, you may wish to discuss their progress and any other issues you may have.

Annual Stakeholders Meeting

Thank you to the parents that joined us for our Annual Stakeholders Meeting held at Baker Street on Friday 13th November. We appreciated the questions you put forward to the Committee, I hope we answered them to your satisfaction. The minutes of the meeting will be published shortly.

As mentioned at the meeting we are proposing to slightly change the start and finish times of the morning and afternoon sessions to create a 3 hour session in the afternoon in addition to the 3 hour session in the morning (plus lunch club). A consultation letter will be issued in the next few weeks detailing the proposed changes.

St John's Nursery Playgroup has been running for **50 years!** As you can imagine there have been huge changes since 1965. We will be celebrating this amazing achievement later in the Spring term - watch this space!

50 Years!

Christmas Nativity

Thursday 17th December

We are planning to perform our nativity event in our St John's Methodist church. All the children who attend St John's Nursery Playgroup are invited to take part. Family and friends are invited to attend this wonderful event, sharing in the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Coffee and mince pies will be served in the Clifton Room from 10.50am and parents can take their seats (entering via the Clifton Room entrance) in the church from 11.15 where you will be able to view pictures from our sessions. If you are able to help serving, please let us know.



Children who attend on THURSDAYS should be dropped off at the normal time at 9am, the remaining children (ie those who do not attend on a Thursday) are to be dropped off at 10.50am. Please let us know if your child will be attending (using the form on the notice board) and if your child normally attends lunch club and/or the afternoon session if they will be staying or going home with you following the nativity.

All the children are given the opportunity to wear a costume if they wish and we will not pressure any children to dress up if they don't want to, however please do not feel too disappointed if they refuse or change their mind - remember this is the first of many opportunities they will have to perform! We are looking to borrow some children's dressing gowns on the day, if you have one we could borrow, please bring it in, **clearly labeled**.

The car park usually gets packed so please park considerately and avoid blocking cars in, we encourage you to walk if at all possible. In the past we have allowed parents to take pictures and videos (as unobtrusively as possible please), however we can only allow this with the agreement of all parents - if you have any concerns about this, or any other issues concerning the nativity, please speak to Mrs Mills or Mrs Mash in complete confidence. Videos and photos must not be uploaded onto social media



sites e.g. Facebook

Recruitment opportunity

We are looking for an experienced, preferably Level 3, qualified in early years, to join our busy playgroup in the new year. If you know of a person who might be interested please ask them to get in touch with us asap as we are starting to interview next week.

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. Can you please check your children's pockets regularly and return

Letter to Santa

You should by now have received a letter home asking permission for your child to join in the writing to Santa activity and requesting a 2nd class stamp or 54p. If you haven't already responded, please do so, so your child doesn't miss out on this wonderful activity. During the same week we will take the children to the post box to post their letter to Santa using the Walkodile! This activity will be week commencing 30th November. If the weather does turn particularly cold, please make sure your children arrive in appropriate, outdoor weather clothing.



Important Notice

We have a number of children with allergies to **nuts** and **egg**. If your child attends lunch club, please do **not** include peanut butter, Nutella or egg sandwiches.

Secondly, please check you have your child's lunch box when leaving as there are several popular branded lunch boxes the same and it has happened that they have gone home with the wrong owner! We do our best to make sure the children leave with their own lunchbox but unfortunately it can slip through the net. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.



Choking Hazard

There have recently been news items of children choking and dying, recently a 2 year old toddler died after choking on a grape. The grief of the parents would be unimaginable. Your local Children's Centre regularly run basic first aid courses for parents which we highly recommend. And in the meantime, please make sure you cut up pieces of fruit in small, bitesize pieces. This is part of the advice from Rospa to avoid choking accidents. See also our posters for advice.

* Choose toys appropriate to the age of the child *
Ensure that small objects such as marbles and peanuts and small toys are kept out of reach of children under three years old * Encourage older children to keep their toys away from their younger playmates * Pull cords on curtains and blinds should be kept short and out of reach * Keep animals, especially cats, out of the bedroom and use a net on a pram * Keep nappy sacks out of reach of babies and young children

Snow Conditions

With winter just about creeping up on us at last, there is the possibility of snow. We would like to remind you of our 'snow policy'. If at least two of the local primary schools are closed due to the snow, we will not be able to open either. Please check our website or phone the playgroup (07969924482) where we will leave a message.



Fruit Sharing & Tissues

Please don't forget to bring in some fruit each week, we'll provide the carbohydrates and protein ranging from bagels, crackers, pitta bread, crumpets, popcorn, humus and cheese!

We would be grateful if every child could bring a box of tissues to help us keep the children's 'noses wiped' as much as possible.



Children's Christmas Party

Friday 18th December 11.30am-1pm.

We would like to invite all the children, whether they attend on a Friday or not to join the Christmas party on 18th December. We are asking for a contribution of £1 from every child to go towards the cost of food as we will be providing lunch, including sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, snacks, and party treats. The lunch and party games will be from **11.30am - 1.00pm.**

- Children who attend Friday morning arrive at normal time (9.00) but will stay until 1.00pm.
- Children who **do not** attend Friday's are invited to arrive at 11.30.

In order to make this day possible we will need parent helpers to help us prepare the lunch, set up the room and to entertain the children.

A form will be on the notice board closer to the time for you to let us know if your child will be attending and if you are able to help on the day.



Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2015

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 Jan CLOSED, INSET DAY

Tues 5th Jan - children start back

Fri 8th Jan New children visit 1.30-2.45

Mon 15th-Fri 19th Feb Half term, PLAYGROUP CLOSED

Fri 25th & Mon 28th Mar Easter Weekend PLAYGROUP CLOSED

Mon 4th -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

30th May - 3rd June, Half term PLAYGROUP CLOSED

Sun 12th Jun - Potters Bar Carnival

Fri 22nd July last day of term

Dates to be advised

Barnado's Big Toddle & Farewell Picnic

May - Voting Day