

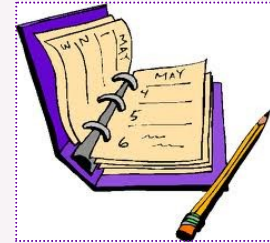


The Play Times

Autumn Term 2020 - Issue 81

Dates for your diary:

- * October Half Term - 26th-30th October
- * Monday 2nd November - Back to Playgroup
- * 5th October - Cooking week
- * Tuesday 15th December - Christmas Concert - Virtual details tbc followed by Christmas Party 11-1pm



Welcome, Welcome, Welcome



With the new term well under way a big Welcome to our new children and families most of them have now started with a few more due to join us soon.

We hope the children are settling in well and enjoying your time with us. Thankyou for bearing with us while we try out our new ways of settling [following current guidance] We appreciate your help in making it as stress free for both children and parents as possible, If you have any questions please do ask or email.

Also we have lots of info on our website and you can always refer back to your information brochure.

Welcome back to our returning children and families we are enjoying hearing all about what you got up to over the holidays. Please do contact us if you have any questions.



Outdoor/Indoor clothing

As the weather is beginning to change and we aim to go outdoors as much as possible-whatever the weather- PLEASE ensure your child/ren have appropriate clothing for the weather. You can leave a pair of **NAMED** wellington boots in the lobby - especially if your child likes to play with the mud kitchen or jump in puddles. [We are building up our stock of spares but cannot guarantee the sizes available]



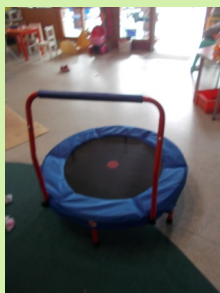
Also with the current situation and the guidance saying we need to ventilate our rooms as much as possible, we will have windows and doors open as much as possible [until it is too cold] for this reason please ensure you send your child in layers so that we can add or remove as appropriate - it will be a little more airy inside than usual.

Also remember please do not put your child in their best clothes we do get messy!

"there's no such thing as bad weather - just bad clothing!"

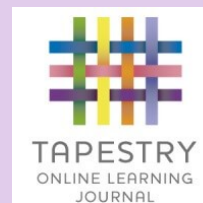
Annual Trike Ride week Fundraiser.

You raised almost £800 this was fantastic, the money raised goes solely on new toys for the children so far we have purchased a twin scoot along trike, two new scooters, a balance bike an indoor trampoline, some new watering cans, a new wheelbarrow and a new double sided writing board that fits on our tuff tray. We have a little left to spend so will be choosing what to spend the remainder on. The children are already enjoying the new toys so Thanks again for everyone who sponsored the children to take part.



Tapestry!

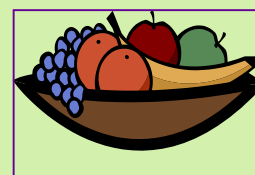
Hopefully you will all now have activated your Tapestry accounts to access your child's online learning journal. Remember you as parents can also upload photos and observations, to share with us what your children are doing outside of playgroup. We love to see a holiday snap or something that they want to show us - we can look at them together in the setting. If you open Tapestry in a web browser you have access to extra features that we use including - documents, memo's and end of term reports - so please try to do this from time to time. The app is available on IOS and Android. If you have any problems please ask. There are lots of useful help topics for Tapestry online too have a look here- <https://eyfs.info/forums/topic/47795-tutorials-contents-page-for-relatives/>



Snack fruit

As some of you may have seen on our Facebook [closed group] page we are trying out some healthy alternatives for the children's snack. We are continuing with our usual milk, water and fruit but swapping the biscuits for something different. We are trying out some different foods to see which go down the best - these will include - breadsticks, oat cakes, crackers, cheese sticks, cucumber, crumpets, corn or rice cakes, and toast.

Also previously before COVID parents used to send in donations of fruit for snack but as this is not currently happening, we really appreciate everyone who is sending in the voluntary contribution that is helping to cover the extra cost of snack as well as cooking ingredients, which I hope you are all pleased to see cooking resume - with enhanced handwashing and hygiene measures the children definitely seemed to enjoy it.



Rupert our pet Guinea pig

Rupert has returned to playgroup following his extended stay with Jake and Family. He has settled back in nicely and the children are enjoying helping to take care of him.

If anyone is interested in looking after him for the October half term or maybe the Christmas holidays - please do let us know.

Some of the children have expressed an interest so watch out for them asking when they come home.



Hello & Goodbye !

As some of you know we said goodbye to Toni at the end of the summer holidays, however we have finally managed to welcome Celina to playgroup - she was due to join us before lockdown but this put everything on hold. So it is lovely to welcome her finally as a cover assistant, I'm sure some of the children have already been telling you about her. It is also so nice for us all to be back working together, before the summer break we had to follow guidance and work in two bubbles, we missed working with the other staff as much as we missed the children. It is so nice to be back as one big playgroup family.

Playgroup Voluntary Management Committee

Thankyou to those who managed to join our AGM meeting, apologies for the slight technical issues, Zoom meetings continue to be a learning curve for us all and I am sure once we get the hang of it we will be able to meet in person again [we hope]!

We successfully recruited several new Parent members including some Dad's too which is a welcome change, we really like to have a mixture of people on the committee to help represent all our family views. So thankyou to all of you that have offered to join our committee.

At the AGM we also said good bye and Thankyou to Phil Race our long term treasurer of around 9 years , Poppy Walker and Liz Ferreira who both served on our committee for the past 2-3 years

We will be introducing our new members soon once all paperwork checks are completed. Thanks To Heather Pearson who is remaining on the committee and taking over the role of Chairperson, Ruth is continuing as Secretary and Laura as a General member - overseeing our fundraising - as a charity Fundraising has a very important role at Playgroup. So if being part of our committee is not for everyone there are many ways you can support us - through fundraising/joining in with events and activities, helping at the make a difference day [helping paint fences/tidy up our outdoor area, etc -we hope to organise one of these asap or in the spring term].


Pre-Covid parents used to help by washing tea-towels on a rota basis, supplying us with hay for the guinea pig, one of our families brings in animals for the children to see, we've just had a delivery of paper for the children to draw on - this is great as it saves us buying it. Thankyou Tanya's dad for this! So there are many ways in which you can help us which in turn helps your children.

Christmas Party & Concert

Sorry to mention this so early in the term, Yes Christmas Party and Christmas Concert, but we have to plan ahead so parents know what is happening.

In order to ensure we follow current guidelines and to ensure we are as COVID safe as possible - this year we will be holding the Christmas concert in the morning of Tuesday 15th December, followed by our Christmas Party.

Unfortunately we will be unable to have parents attend the concert as it is too large a gathering so we are hoping to proceed with our usual concert but video it for you.

We then decided that it would be nice to follow this up with our children's end of term Christmas party. Sadly this year we will be missing our usual Mr Marvel performance and a visit from 'you know who'  but we are working on other ways to make the party fun!

We have also taken the decision to provide the food ourselves [usually we ask for donations from the parents] We feel this will be the better option.

This means Tuesday 15th December will run from 9-11 for the set up and concert performance followed by the party 11-1pm All children will go home at 1pm on this day. Final details tbc. Please note ALL children are invited to the concert and Party on the last day - even if it is not your usual day [if they don't usually attend Tuesday mornings please arrive at 10 am for the concert].



Sessions/Funding Please remember if you are claiming the 30 hours **YOU MUST** re-confirm eligibility **TERMLY** and have a valid code before the end of the month before a new term starts.

If you think you may be eligible for this in the **Spring term** again please go onto the [childcare choices](#) website which explains all you need to know [the site has lots of other information about other forms of funding options too]. Again you **MUST** confirm eligibility and get your code before the start of a new term.

Recommended dates to apply for Spring Term - 15th Oct-30th Nov/ Autumn term between 15th June-31st July/ Summer term 15th Jan-28th Feb.

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2020

Weds 2nd Sept - Tues 15th Dec
[half term 26th-30th October]

Spring term 2021

Mon 4th January - Fri 26th March
[half term 15th - 19th Feb]

Summer term 2021

Monday 12th April - Fri 16th July
[half term 25th - 2nd June]

COVID-19

With things constantly changing due to coronavirus and government guidance likely to be updated for early years/ health and safety throughout the summer holidays we will endeavour to keep you up to date with any changes that apply to playgroup as soon as we can. Remember to check your emails -Just in case.