

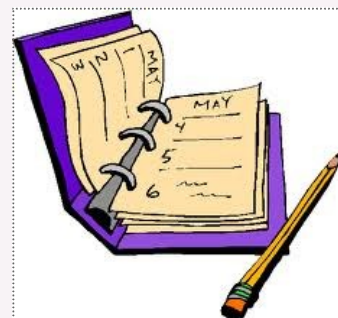


The Play Times

SPRING EDITION 2024 - Issue 94

Dates for your diary:

- * 29th January - National Storytelling week
- * 10th February- Chinese New Year
- * 13th Feb - Pancake Day
- * 19th-23rd February - Half term
- * 1st March -Saint David's day
- * Sunday 10th March - Mothers Day.
- * 17th March - Saint Patricks day
- * Easter Holidays Friday 29th March - 12th April inc
- * 21st April - Family Easter Event - 2-4pm - Save the Date!
- * 15th-19th May - Children's Sponsored Trike Ride week
- * End of June - Annual Playgroup trip date and venue tbc
- * Wednesday 19th July - End of Term - Leavers Picnic



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas Party and the Sing-a-long, the children did so well with our songs as did those of you joining in. The Christmas and New Year break has flown by and feels like a distant memory already!



Thanks to Ellie and her family for looking after Twinkle and Fudge during the Christmas holidays - they took such great care of them. Remember if you would like to look after them during one of the school holidays - let us know. The next one will be the February half term.

We have lots of things planned for the year ahead as you can see in the Dates for your Diary section above, as soon as we have the annual trip dates confirmed we will let you know.

We just wanted to give you as much advance notice to be able to organise work/commitments etc.

What have we been up to...

We are only a few weeks in and we have already been very busy, lots of animal crafts, looking at Artic and Antarctic animals in particular. Tying in nicely with the very cold weather we had! But this was a great opportunity to explore the ice that had appeared outside. Using various media to break it or melt it and more.

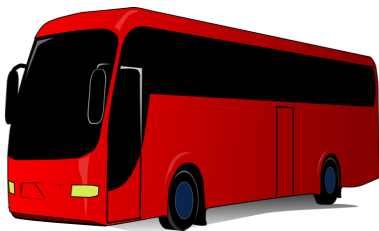
We've been singing animal themed songs a particular favourite being 'one little elephant balancing' and 'If you're a Giraffe and you know it' or our old favourite '5 little Monkeys jumping on the bed'

This week we have been baking Banana Muffins - a nice easy thing to make at home and useful for using up those over-ripe bananas.

With National Storytelling week next week - we will be reading all our old favourite 'Traditional Stories' like The Three little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, Cinderella, Goldilocks and the Three bears and more. Using story sacks and puppets and masks to help. Don't forget to check out our lending library to borrow a book to share at home too. Or if you have a Traditional Story from home - please do let us know and we may be able to share it with the children.



Annual Playgroup Trip



It will soon be time for us to book our Annual trip - this usually happens on a Thursday towards the end of June [Subject to availability] We book a coach and this is optional to travel together to our destination [subsidised by playgroup] and is exciting as many have not travelled by coach before. Or you can make your own way. Watch out for the finalised date and location.

Voluntary Contributions

The little brown envelopes are in the workbox now - Thanks to those who have returned or paid via BACS.

As a registered charity we have to manage our finances very carefully - families are often not aware that the money we receive from the government funding for your 'free hours' is much less than our hourly rate [we receive £5.14ph Gov funding - this is £2.36 less than our hourly fee] hence why we ask parents and families to support us with a termly voluntary contribution of £10, this money helps provide the lovely healthy snack your children enjoy-offering interesting alternatives like toast, bagels, pancakes for pancake day, foods to taste for Chinese New year, the amazing resources we use, ingredients for cooking and much more. We are very lucky to have such an amazing facility but owning our building means we have more costs than some other settings with ongoing maintenance and repairs. So if you are able to please do support us with the voluntary contribution. You can also pay this via BACS using the same account details that you use for paying your bill.

Snack Fruit

Thanks to all those who have been bringing in some fruit donations for snack it really is appreciated. Keep them coming and don't forget we love something unusual too!



Fundraising

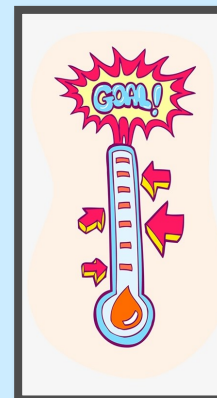
The Christmas Raffle was so well supported by you all, the amazing donations from staff, parents and grandparents. We raised an amazing £190 to add to our Trim Trail target. Still a long way to go yet. Check out the fundraising gauge in our lobby.

Other ways you can help us are ...



easyfundraising

Easy Fundraising [link on our website] we get donations when you do your online shopping.



Lastly when you order your children's name labels via **Stikins** we receive a % for each order you make. Information on our website or in our lobby.

This all adds up without costing you anything extra. How amazing is that.

If you have any other ideas please speak to a member of staff or one of our Committee. As a registered charity who own our building we welcome all ideas, to help keep us running.

Easter Family Fun Event.



For those who are new to Playgroup we hold a yearly Easter Event - From 2-4pm on a Sunday 21st April, where we have games, activities for the children, an egg Hunt, refreshments for adults and children, Guess the name of the Bunny to win a prize and much more. It is a lovely social event for families and children to get together.

We sell tickets in advance [limited numbers] these allow the children a number of activities included in the price. We also usually have a Watch out for more information nearer the time - but put the date in your Diary so not to miss out.

Sponsored Trike Ride: 13th-17th May

This is our other main annual Fundraising event at Playgroup.

For this we ask the children to take part by pedaling, scooting, being pulled in a trolley or walk around the track on the playground. Whilst our Parents, Carer's gather sponsors from extended family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours - we don't mind who you ask! Either per lap or as a set amount. Most children manage around 10 laps.



Once they have taken part we issue them with a certificate stating how many laps they completed ready for you to collect the sponsor money.

Sponsor forms will be sent home a week or two before.

As a registered charity we are also able to claim Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer and sign the forms [as they say in a popular supermarket every little helps]

End of Term Leavers Picnic - Friday 19th July

Weather permitting!, **All** families are welcome. This is a chance to catch up with other families and Staff, say our goodbyes to those leaving us for school and maybe arrange playdates in the summer break!

On the last day of term we hold a morning session **ONLY** then all children need to be accompanied by their parent/ grandparent for the picnic so all to arrive by 12noon. Bring a rug to sit on and your picnic lunch. There is no afternoon session that day - children will go home with you when the picnic is finished.



Sessions/Funding

Please remember if you are claiming the new 15 hours from April 2024 or 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 **next term** 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-30thNov/ Autumn term between 15th June-31st July/ Summer term 15th Jan-28th Feb.

Sessions are beginning to fill up with new children joining us , if you are thinking of increasing your sessions, adding extra sessions or extending to full days - please speak to us as soon as possible to check availability, —we book a term in advance. Summer term is usually our busiest.

Term Dates

Spring term 2024

4th January - Thurs 28th March inc
[half term 19th - 23rd Feb]

Summer term 2024

Monday 15th April - Fri 19th July
Bank Holiday - Monday 6th May
[half term 27th -31st May]

Autumn Term 2024

Sept - Dec

Contact details

Please remember to ensure all your contact details are up to date - if you change your mobile or emails - remember to let us know, just in case we need to contact you.

WhatsApp

If you haven't yet been added to our broadcast list for updates/info just send us a message to the playgroup mobile with your name so we can add you. Your number is not shared with anyone in the group.
0773589549.

Can you help?

Playgroup is a registered Charity which is run by a Voluntary Management Committee (VMC). As a committee-run preschool, we rely on parents and volunteers to help make up the VMC. Members of the VMC play a key role in overseeing the operation of Playgroup while making sure that it continues to flourish as a happy, thriving learning environment.

Are you interested in joining the VMC?

We would ideally like two or three new members to join who can commit to at least 12 months or longer to replace current members who will be stepping down this year.

If you think you may be able to help or would like more information please do get in touch for a chat or drop us an email.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE COMMITTEE



INCREASE YOUR
UNDERSTANDING



SUPPORT &
FUNDRAISE



MAKE YOUR VOICE
HEARD



STRENGTHEN OUR
COMMUNITY



SHAPE YOUR
CHILD'S FUTURE



STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

Our Committee Needs You!

