



The Play Times

Bumper Summer Issue- May 2024- Issue 95

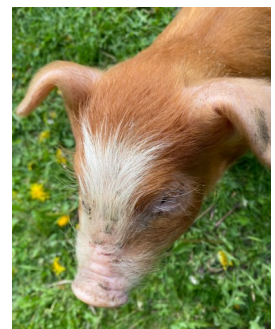
Dates for your diary:



- * 13th -17th May - Sponsored Trike Ride week
 - * 18th or 19th May - Make a difference Morning [tbc]
 - * 27th-31st May - Half Term
 - * 3rd June - Forms out for Shepreth Trip
 - * Sat 8th June - 2nd Make a difference morning!
 - * Monday 12th June 3pm - deadline for Shepreth trip - discounted tickets.
 - * Thursday 27th June - Annual Playgroup trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park - PLAYGROUP CLOSED this day.
 - * Sat 29th June - STAFF Makaton training
 - * Friday 19th July - End of Term - Leavers Picnic 12 noon - NO PM SESSION
 - * Tues 3rd Sept - Staff Inset morning
 - * Wednesday 4th September - Autumn Term Starts
- Dates to tbc - minibeast morning! Leavers Tea towel orders/Leavers photos**

Easter Eggstravaganza!

A big **THANK YOU!** to everyone who supported our Easter Event [by attending, baking cakes, helping out, donating prizes and more] - and a special Thanks to Simon and Nadja [**Simon's Rodents**] for supplying the amazing animals that were here and enjoyed by adults and children.



I think we all agree The baby deer, piglet, lambs, and ducklings were amazing. Along with our regular visitors - guinea pigs and rabbits in the petting area.

The weather was with us and we had a great turnout - it is so nice to get our families and staff together. Thanks to you all we raised £478.25 which is amazing and has gone towards our current fundraising goal for the cost of replacing our Trim Trail.



I had many compliments on the high standard of cakes on the refreshment stall - They were enjoyed by all - so thank you very much.



What's happening...

It's already been a busy start after the Easter break following a busy Spring term.

At the end of last term Amy with the help from some budding gardeners, planted seed potatoes in the raised beds so we have continued tending to them, together we have also been watering the plants, weeding the beds and started to plant sunflowers seeds - watching for their first shoots to appear and then we will send them home to grow on.

Hopefully you will also check out our 'Activities@Home' sheets - that you will find in your emails, a copy in the lobby and also under 'Documents' on Tapestry - accessed via a web browser.

This has most of the activities coming up and is produced every half term.

We are also hoping to have another 'Bug' morning with a few creepy crawlies coming in to visit! Keep an eye out for more info.



I almost forgot the tadpoles are growing rapidly - Lauren kindly found us some frogspawn and the children are watching in anticipation each day for any changes.. This is also the same for our Caterpillars who are also growing quickly from a few mm to 4--5cm's in the course of a week!!! We're

lucky our children don't grow at that rate!!



STAFF TRAINING - We have been busy completing some training by Cambs County Council and the Virtual School using VR - This is new training to help us become 'Trauma informed' to allow us to offer a trauma responsive approach to those who may need it - to recognise and understand the effects of relational and developmental trauma and loss on the children and young people' and how trauma can affect brain development.

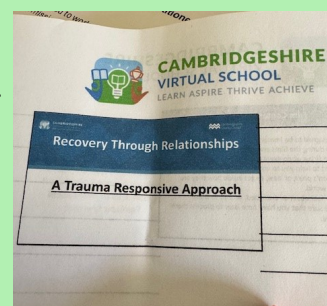


All schools in Scotland are 'Trauma informed' and it is now being rolled out to schools and early years in England too. We are very lucky to get in on this so early. All staff found it really interesting and the VR headsets gave it a very different immersive experience from the child's perspective - from inside the womb, 8months, 6 years and adolescence.

We also have some Makaton Training booked in for June!!

WOW! We've been busier than I realised!!!!!!

We also welcome in our new families joining us over the next couple of weeks and hope they settle well and enjoy being part of our 'Playgroup Family'.



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.



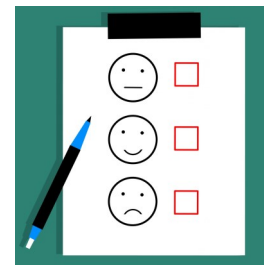
Most children manage around 10 laps.

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, *let us know if your child would like to bring in their own bike.*

Parental Questionnaire

We will soon be sending out the link to our Parental Questionnaire. There will also be paper copies. We would be really grateful if you could complete and return to us - your thoughts and feedback is really useful to us.

To add to the incentive this year - we will be holding a draw - so all completed surveys that have a NAME on will go into a draw with one winning a nice bottle of something and some choccies! You've got to be in it to win it!!



Leavers tea-towels



We are currently collating the children's self portrait drawings ready to compile the leavers tea towels - this is something we do annually, it is a small fundraiser but also a nice opportunity for you to have a souvenir of their time at preschool - with all the Pre-school children contributing to them. I still have the ones with my daughters on and they are both in their 20's now!

Annual Playgroup Trip - Shepreth

SAVE THE DATE! - Once again we thought we would support our local wildlife park Shepreth so have booked to go this year! Thursday 27th June - Everyone is invited, a coach has been booked and is being subsidised by playgroup for those who wish to travel with us [limited seats] or you can make your own way.



Booking forms will be going out after the May half term - prebooking will ensure you take advantage of the group discount that we get. You can still join us but after this date you will have to pay full price. Everyone that joined us last year had a great time and we hope you can join us this year.

Some staff will be available to lend a hand with babies/pushchairs if you need it just ask on the day.

If you join us on the coach we will give you info on where to meet us nearer the time.

Fund Raisin 2024!

We thought it would be a 'grape' idea to give the children a snack and in return ask them to collect loose change from their house, most people have random coppers hanging around as we have got used to paying by card throughout covid - so if we can take the loose change off your hands - pop it in the raisin box and return to playgroup.

We will then make a 'snake' with the coins and count up to see how much we manage to **RAISIN** [Raise]

Please don't worry about how much goes in the box, every little helps no matter how big or small. Thankyou. Watch out for the Raisin boxes coming home soon!



A big thankyou to Isabella and her family for taking such good care of Twinkle and Fudge during the half term holiday - We have already had an offer for May half term - but if anyone can help over the longer summer break please let us know or sharing the care between families often works well.



Also not forgetting we are hoping to have one of our Parents - a budding photographer come and take the leavers photos for us this year and maybe a few others that will then be available to purchase as a digital copy for a small charge.



Recycle - Reuse

To prevent adding to landfill we like to try to reuse any 'good condition' 'used' preschool uniform that families/children no-longer need or have grown out of, so if you have any and would like to return to playgroup - please just drop them back into us anytime, we will then have a second hand uniform sale at the start of the new year [September] offering them up to current/new families



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

Make A Difference Morning



As you will have seen the emails, we have pencilled in May 18th and June 8th - It would be great if you could volunteer even just for an hour or two - to help us do small maintenance jobs outside - eg fence painting , repairing gutter on small sheds, weeding etc Just let Cindy know when you can come.



A quick reminder Please can your child have NAPPIES - with Velcro tabs, in pre-school - not nappy pants/pull ups unless they are toilet training. This allows any nappy changing to happen quickly and with minimal disruption to their play. It does also help us due to not having to undress/dress the children totally. Thanks

The Sun has got it's hat on.....

...Hopefully the sunny weather will be with us soon, so please ensure to check the forecast so you can remember to put suncream on your child - we will assume they have it on unless you tell us otherwise. If your child is staying all day we will re-apply if necessary.

This is also a good time to check their bags in the lobby to take out the winter clothes and swap for lighter items.

Its good to dress your child in light loose layers, this way if it's hot we can take of, if it's chilly we can layer up.

We know the good old British weather is unpredictable so best be covered for all



Sessions/Funding & Payment of Invoices

Please remember if you are claiming the 15 hours for 2 year olds, or extended 30 hours for 3-4 year olds **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 [child-care 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 can fill up especially 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.

Can we please ask that invoices are paid by the due date - late payments may be charged a late payment fee as per policy. Invoices are issued at the beginning of each **half term** from Sharon.pgoffice@btinternet.com please let us know if you have not received yours. Thanks

As mentioned before ALL of the animals that you saw at the Easter Event are loaned to us very kindly by Simon and Nadja See below - we are very grateful to them for making it such an extra special event. They do also sell to the public via appointment only if you were looking for pets or something more unusual! Also In case you didn't know they now offer pet experiences for birthday parties, schools, event. Contact for this is direct with Nadja on 07597093130



SIMON'S RODENTS

Putting the pets in your petshop



Simon's Rodents is a family business established in 1992, supplying pets to the pet trade and frozen reptile food.

All our pet rodents are bred on the premises and we stock a wide variety of species and colour variations. If you cannot see what you need on our price lists, please ask, as we can source a wide variety of animals and birds for you.

Although we cannot deal direct to the public, we are happy to supply members of the general public with the nearest shop that we supply. We can deliver nationwide including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. We now also offer a fortnightly delivery run to the Republic of Ireland.

Please see our price lists pages for full details on what we stock or if we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Southwood Farm, Drewells Lane, Abbotsley, Cambs, PE19 6XE

Orders: 01767 651872 Tel: 01767 651832 Fax: 01767 652919 Mobile: 07834 420076
VAT: 706 1569 41 Mail: sales@simonsrodents.co.uk Website: www.simonsrodents.co.uk

Term Dates

Summer term 2024

half term 27th-31st May

Monday 3rd June - Friday 19th July

Autumn Term 2024

Tues 3rd Sept - Staff Inset day

Weds 4th Sept - Friday 19th Dec

[half term 28th October-1st Nov]

Spring term 2025

Monday 6th January - Friday 4th April

[half term 17th-21st February]

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.