



# The Play Times

End of term updates July 2024 - Issue 96

## Dates for your diary:

- \* 10th -18th July - The Great Playgroup Wash-up, annual cleaning of toys, dress up clothes and equipment
- \* 19th July - Last day of term - Morning session ONLY 9-12noon
- \* 19th July - 12-2 Leavers picnic

### Summer Holidays

- \* 3rd September - PG Closed -Staff inset day
- \* Wednesday 4th September - New Autumn term begins
- \* **28th October - 1st November - October half term**
- \* 4th November - Autumn term 2nd half.

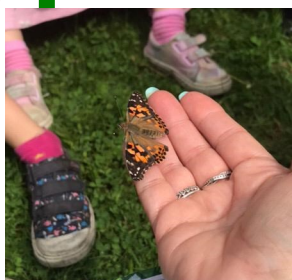


## Wow, where did the summer term go.....

The summer term is almost over, it feels like it has flown by. It is always a busy term, with lots happening. Especially for those preparing to leave us and move onto 'Big School' The children have been visiting their schools, having lunches there, meeting their teachers and some teachers have popped into see us . All things that help with their transition to school.



We were lucky enough to have the bugs come to visit this term, including millipedes, snakes, cockroaches, turtles and baby tortoises, bearded dragons, scorpions and not forgetting the very speedy spider... or stripped knee Tarantula to be exact! As always a big thanks to Nadja and Simon [Simons Rodents who supply pet shops and sell direct to the public - from creepy crawlies to chickens to the slightly more cuddly cats and Kittens - they have also started doing animal experience parties]



The caterpillars arrived and we watched them closely munching their food then becoming cocoons- ready to hatch out into butterflies, feeding them nectar until they were strong enough to release in the garden. Its amazing watching them transform and being able to let them sit on our hands as we release them.

Lauren brought us some frogs spawn again, so we have watched them change into tiny frogs, releasing them into the pond.



## .... continued

When it was sunny the children have helped tend to our garden, watering the potatoes, raspberries and flowers that we have grown.

This pays off when we get to dig up and enjoy cooked new potatoes for snack or tasty Raspberries which produced a good crop this year. Hopefully in the Autumn term we will be able to pick an apple or pear from our fruit trees.



Thankyou to all the parents, staff and committee members who helped on our Make a Difference mornings - we finally got our fence painted, the playhouses cleaned and a few much needed odd jobs done. Watch out for next years dates. Owinging our building brings with it extra costs to maintain so any help is really appreciated.



Feedback on the Shepreth trip was good - we are glad you enjoyed it. It is so nice to meet in a more relaxed way - having time to chat, meet other parents whilst enjoying the park. The weather was good to us too! Considering how hot it had been.

**Wishing all the leavers Good luck, and we hope everyone has a lovely Summer break, we look forward to seeing you in September!!**

## 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. [or go home if you are not able to join us] 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.

## All aboard the Toilet Train

Children's bowel and bladder charity, ERIC, aim to help children in England and Wales become toilet trained before starting school Parents, carers, and professionals can sign up to join the Toilet Train Summer Challenge and receive helpful, easy-to-follow information to get their children [toilet ready for school](#). Lots of useful help for those younger children who are also ready now.



## Fundraising

**Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou...** you helped raise £645 from the sponsored Trike ride, normally we use this to purchase more toys/resources for the children - this year we are doing something slightly different and after many discussion we decided to use this money to make a more permanent shade for the mud kitchen. All the children love this area but with the wet weather and some not so well positioned birds in trees - it has been more of a challenge to keep it useable, we tried a gazebo - only for it to get waterlogged and break .

So we will be measuring up and looking to source resources and labour to make it happen. Any offers of help are very welcome. Just speak to Cindy.

The raisin challenge was well supported too - all that loose change came to an amazing £65!!



## Sessions/Funding

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 [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 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.**

Any queries regarding funding or your invoices please contact [Sharon.pgoffice@btinternet.com](mailto:Sharon.pgoffice@btinternet.com) our administrator.



## Recycle - Reuse

At the beginning of term we will have some second hand uniform available to buy [for a nominal charge]. If you have any old uniform in 'good condition' please do consider donating it to our collection. Thanks

## Term Dates

### Summer term 2024

Last day of term - 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]

As mentioned before ALL of the animals that you saw at the Easter Event and our bug morning 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

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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 them direct.

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