

## Oakmere Newsletter

Autumn 2018

# Playgroup News

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We are pleased to welcome back all our children who were with us last year and happy to greet all the new families that have joined us this term. We have some really exciting activities taking place this term that all the children have shown an interest in.

We have celebrated a few Jewish festivals - the New Year and Day of Atonement, and shall look forward to celebrating Diwali, Chanukah and Christmas.

### This terms topic

We have decided to focus our role play area on a farm shop, and have some real fruit and vegetables which the children have enjoying buying from the shop and even trying some!

### Climbing Frame

We were very excited over the summer to have delivery and installation of an amazing climbing frame. We managed to purchase this with the help of the local community and Tesco Bags of Help (blue coin collection). We were awarded first position and have enhanced our outside area including a new water wall, and music corner, as well as a new sand play area and mud kitchen area. We are proud to be able to boast one of the biggest outside play areas in Potters Bar!



### Lunch Club

Some parents have asked what sort of things can they put in their child's lunch boxes? As a setting we like to promote healthy eating and we ask that you do **NOT** include chocolate bars, sweets, fizzy drinks or anything that may contain NUTS. Can we also ask that parents name their child's lunch box and any boxes or bottles that may be inside them, that they would like to be returned.

## Mobile Phones

Please be aware that as part of new statutory requirements, no staff or parents/visitors should use their mobile phones or cameras whilst on the playgroup premises

### THE PLAYGROUP PREMISES INCLUDES BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AREAS.

The play group uses a mobile phone to communicate with parents and outside agencies only. We also use a digital camera to take photos of the children to evidence their individual learning for their learning journals. These photos are monitored and managed by the leadership team. Please note you will be asked to refrain from using your phone whilst on the premises. If you have any concerns regarding this ruling please speak with Mrs Alyson.

## Clothing

As the weather is becoming colder please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately with warm clothing, hat, scarves and gloves and suitable outdoor shoes. Wellies are also useful to have at playgroup and can be left here on your child's peg. If your child comes to playgroup in their wellies please ensure you bring some indoor shoes and we can put them on for you.

## CHANGE OF CLOTHES - Trousers, Tops, Pants/knickers, and SOCKS

We do love our messy play at play group and the children enjoy participating and involving themselves within our sensory and mark making experiences. So please can we ask you to bring a change of clothes for your child in a small bag (gym bags are ideal for hanging 'low' on the peg allowing room for the coat above). Please ensure that your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name. Almost all of the children wear our lovely uniforms now, so by ensuring all of their clothing is labelled, we are able to reduce the confusion of what item belongs to which child at the end of each session.

**We currently have some spare uniform donated by previous families, so please see a member of staff if you would like some additional uniform.**

### Woodland Walks

This is a great experience for the children to explore a different environment. We are pleased to welcome parents to join us on the walks and without their support we are unable to provide this experience. If you are able to spare some time once a week, please speak to Mrs Keely. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to enable them to participate within our walks safely. The dates for this term will be announced on a weekly basis depending on the weather outlook.

### Library Books



The library book borrowing scheme is well under way and we hope your children are keen to borrow a book that you can spend some valuable quiet time reading together with them. Could we ask you to ensure your child's book is returned every week, to enable us to provide them with a new book each week. Your child's key worker will have a specific day each week when they will change their books, if you are not sure of this day please speak with your child's key person or Mrs Alyson who will be able to assist you.

### Song Sharing Scheme

We have also started a song sharing scheme, providing you with words of songs and nursery rhymes we sing with your child. Everyone will be given a folder and song sheets will be given out throughout the term. We have found with support from their familiar adult at home, children become more confident to participate within circle and music time which helps towards their development.

### Notices and requests

## Payment Of Fees

Cheques should be made payable to ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, POTTERS BAR, please write your child's name on the reverse

We can also accept payment via BACS, the bank details are as follows:

CAF bank St John's Methodist Church Potters Bar

Sort Code: 40 52 40

Account No: 00021445



## Nappies

If your child is wearing nappies, can you please make sure you provide enough nappies and wipes for the sessions they are attending.

## Buggies and Prams

If you need to leave your prams at playgroup, there is a green plastic shed that is situated outside the main wooden gate where you can leave them at your own risk.

## Fruit for snack time



Please can we ask all parents to provide a piece of fruit or vegetable, each week which will be shared with their friends at snack time.

Additionally, we provide carbohydrates such as bread, pita bread, crackers, cheese and a drink of milk or water is also provided.

## Illness

Parents are asked to keep their children at home if they have an infection. Please also keep them at home for 48 hours from the last bout of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, you must inform the play group as to the nature of the infection/illness.

**Facebook Page** We are pleased that we have now created a Facebook page (black logo - St Johns at Oakmere) and regularly put up pictures of activities that we do, for you to see what we do at nursery.

Please follow and like our page.

## Parent Consultations

The parent meetings will take place towards the end of term (to be confirmed). A list of timings (10 mins apart) will be put up later in the term. If you make an appointment please keep to it as the staff work hard to prepare all the documents and learning journals.

### Photography session

We are pleased to be offering a photography session in preparation for Christmas gifts for family and friends. The photographer will be taking photos between 12pm and 2pm on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Every child is welcome, even if it is not your regular day (siblings also welcome by appointment). Letter to follow.

### Dates for Your Diary

Photography session 20<sup>th</sup> November 12.00pm to 2.00pm  
Christmas jumper week to be confirmed  
Christmas nativity play - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
End of term - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December