

Playgroup News

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WELCOME BACK

We would like to welcome all the new children and families that have joined us this term and all those that have returned. We have a wonderful term to look forward to as we explore our new topic. Like previous years we will also be watching the mini marathon on the 23rd May where schools in the surrounding area will join Oakmere to run around the school grounds. We will watch from our playground and cheer on any siblings so please ask them to look out for us. We have also decided to join in with the micro marathon from 2pm. Please come and cheer us on. Our chicken eggs came early this year and 3 baby chicks hatched at beginning of May, the children love seeing them and giving them a cuddle every day.



This terms topic

Our role play area has been turned into an ice cream parlour and we have an indoor beach with picnic table and deck chairs as our theme. Mrs Mushfika has been busy making strawberry sorbet and banana choc chip sorbet, which the children and staff enjoyed eating. The children will have lots of creative activities to do making kites and flags. We will be having real ice creams and ice pops to eat during the 'hot weather'. The Children will be able to watch how ice creams are made via our interactive whiteboard and also we will be looking at beaches.



Lunchboxes

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. Many of the children have the same lunch boxes so please ensure they are clearly named on the outside.



Mobile Phones

Please be aware that as part of the statutory requirements, no staff or parents/visitors should use their mobile phones or cameras whilst on the playgroup premises. The moment you enter our gate, phones should be in bags or pockets and not be answered at all.

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 warmer please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately with light clothing and sun cream. For all children that arrive in the morning/afternoon it is your responsibility to put cream on your child, so please ensure sun cream has been applied, we will reapply this in the afternoon if your child is staying for the full session. We have a large supply of sun hats, so encourage the children to wear the hats we supply as it causes less confusion at the end of each session when trying to find 24 different hats. Please label all suncream bottles.

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. Every child needs spare clothes on their pegs as we do not want them in soiled or wet clothes all day, and we do not always have enough changes from our supply.

We welcome any donations of old clothing, as we currently have a short supply, especially bigger boy's clothes.



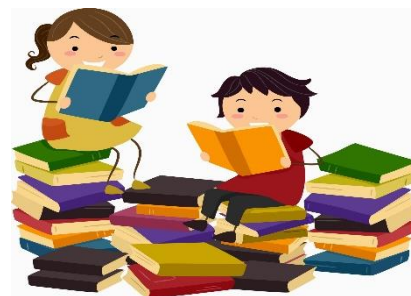
Community Walks

This is a great experience for the children to explore a different environment. We visit Oakmere Park, the library, the woods, the local shops and have recently started visiting the older members of the community at the Wayside centre. We are currently organising visits to Coopers Croft in the Causeway, in order to forge links with the wider community. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to enable them to participate within our walks safely. We will provide sufficient warning to enable you to be prepared for our outings.



Library Books

The library book borrowing scheme is well underway 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 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

Please use the name of your child as a reference.



Nappies

If your child is wearing nappies, can you please make sure you provide enough nappies and wipes for the sessions they are attending as we do not have a big supply of nappies at playgroup

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.

Parent Consultations

The parent meetings will take place on Friday 28th June from 12.30pm. 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.

Dates for Your Diary

Micro marathon - Thursday 23rd 2pm
Inset Day - Friday May 24th
May half term - Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May
Leavers party - Tuesday 2nd July
Last day of term - Friday 19th July



FACEBOOK:

Please find us on facebook page (black logo - St Johns at Oakmere). We regularly put up pictures of activities that we do, for you to see what we do at nursery. Please follow and like our page.