

Oakmere Newsletter
Spring 2020



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. We have welcomed two new rabbits to our settling and the children had the opportunity to pick some names with their parents. The children chose names and the ones we picked out the hat are Floppy and Bitsy.



We are also pleased and excited to welcome Simone Daveron to our amazing staff team. She is replacing Mrs Sarah who left us after many years of looking after the St Johns children. We wish Sarah luck and are excited that Simone has joined our team.

This terms topic

Our role play area has been turned into a hospital. There is a hospital room where the children can take on a role as a doctor or nurse. The children have nurses and doctor uniforms to wear throughout the day plus lots of other exciting equipment they can use. We will be reading stories about hospitals and watching programmes on the interactive tv/whiteboard about how doctors and nurses can help people.



We also celebrated Chinese New Year, which is the year of the rat. We made different creative activities and ate noodles to celebrate.

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, so that they can be returned to the rightful owner.



Drinks for children at lunchtimes

We are happy for you to bring in drinks for your child but if you provide sports topped bottles, e.g.: fruit shoots or water, please remove the clear plastic lids, which can provide a choking hazard to yours or other children.

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.

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 PLAYGROUP PREMISES INCLUDES BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AREAS.

ONCE PAST THE ENTRANCE GATE.

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/wetter please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Please bring in a jacket/coat so that the children can play outside, and if you have any waterproof all in ones or trousers please provide them while the weather is cold and wet. We do not have wellie boots for every child so please ensure you bring your children's own boots, making sure their names are inside the boots and put them in a bag on/or under their peg. Please also bring in shoes as well as boots to change into after we have been out to play.

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 'lower' 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. If we do not have a change of clothes and we cannot provide any we will have to call you to bring a change of clothes so your children do not stay in wet clothes all day.

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 Coopers Croft Care Home in the Causeway. 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 starting again next week 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 Sheets

We have a song sharing sheet 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. We only have a limited supply of nappies for emergencies and if we have to consistently use our nappies may have to start charging. We also request that where possible children do not wear pull up pants. When we have to change 14-16 nappies a day,

take off shoes, and bottom layers, especially if wearing tights, it takes us much longer to change each child. If you are potty training please put your child in pants or knickers and bring plenty of changes of clothes (all named) and we will support you and your child. Please discuss with your child's keyworker or another member of the team.

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.

Birthdays

At St Johns we love celebrating birthdays. You are welcome to bring in a cake but please ensure that any cakes or sweets are **SUITABLE FOR VEGETARIANS** as some children will miss out and not be able to share. We provide an artificial cake, light candles and give each birthday child a goodie bag and card to take home.

Toys from Home

We know that your children like bringing toys or objects for comfort from home into playgroup, however many of the toys are small and can get lost. We cannot take responsibility for these toys and do not have the time to search for the toys during or at the end of the day. If your child insists on bringing things in either, give them to a staff member at the door or leave them in your child's bag or take them home. This will take the pressure and worry off yourselves and staff, especially if the toys belong to siblings.

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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.

Medication

We are only allowed to give medication that has a pharmacy label on with a child's name and in

date, so please do not ask us to give any pain relief medication such as calpol. If your child is ill enough to need this medication please do not send them in. If your child has had any medication before they come to playgroup, please inform staff. This is really important, because if we had to call an ambulance for your child and we do not know what medication they have taken at home there could be a risk of overdosing.

Dates for Your Diary

February half term dates- Monday 17th February until Friday 19th, returning to playgroup on Monday 24th February.

April half term dates- we break up for Easter on Friday 3rd April 2020 and return for the summer term on Monday 20th April 2020.



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.