

Playgroup News

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Summer 2019



Summer 2019 Theme

The focus for this term is People in our Community and our usual focus on Life Cycles. The children have already seen the frog spawn turn into tadpoles who are getting larger by the day.



This week the tiny little caterpillars have arrived, starting their journey of turning into butterflies. Next week the chick eggs will be with us for a hatching hopefully just after half term.



The Potters Bar Carnival Theme is 'Celebrating our Public Services'. We are focusing on Police, Fire Service and Doctors and Nurses. During this term we will also celebrate Father's Day, the start of Ramadan ending with Eid on 5th June.

After the half term break we will start to talk about children transitioning to their new school, see the article opposite.

Potters Bar Carnival - Sunday 9th June

ALL CHILDREN INVITED and to come with a grown up. The theme is **CELEBRATING OUR PUBLIC SERVICES** as requested by the carnival organisers. Please see letter coming soon with full details of the event.

Reminders and requests...

Days for next term - for children staying with us in September, please update the days you would like your child to attend in the autumn term.

Numbers are low for the autumn term so please recommend us to families and friends. We can give you some leaflets if you would like to hand them out although we have always found recommendations via word-of-mouth the best.

Please pay your invoices as soon as you receive them. If you have any outstanding invoices, please make sure they are paid before half term (Friday 24th May). The hourly rate will be going up to £5.90 in the Autumn term.

Supporting Your Children **C**hildren develop

at different rates and at different ages. At St John's we support all children to move on to their next steps, whatever stage that is. In addition to the steps as outlined in the EYFS document, we are working on the following activities, particularly this term with so many children leaving to go to either nursery or reception: phonics - learning letter sounds; playdough gym; transition support; recognising their name and for those who are showing an interest, writing their name.

See the following link which gives excellent advice for pre-writing skills: <https://childdevelopment.com.au/areas-of-concern/writing/writing-readiness-pre-writing-skills/>

Another excellent web page to give ideas for maths for Under 5's is <https://www.familymathstoolkit.org.uk/activities-for-children>

Transition Support

As this is the final term for many of the children, we want to make their transition to their new school as smooth as possible. In the second half of the summer term, we will be talking to the children about moving on to school, showing them school uniforms which they can try on if they choose, show them photo books provided by the local schools. There will be lots of discussions about what the children can expect at their new school.



We will have visits from the reception and nursery teachers from the local schools in July who come and meet the children joining their school. We will put on the notice board after the holidays a very useful poster entitled **Am I ready for school? Tips for parents (for children going into reception)**.

Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Ms Kerry

Hill who has joined St John's this term, Kerry is a keyworker to the children in the green frog group. Ms Hill has many years experience working in the early years.

We say a farewell to Carla White who has had to leave for family reasons. Carla may return later in the year.



Parent Helpers

This term we are looking for parent helpers to accompany us on walks so we can keep the correct ratio of children back in the playgroup. These walks are in line with our commitment to reduce obesity, healthier living and contributing to the time the children are active. These walks are normally planned for around 9.30-10.30.

We would also like some help with snack time during the morning. If you can spare half an hour to do some washing up (after 11.15 and before 12), an hour or two either regularly or as a one off (snack is 9.45-11.15) and you would like to help, please let us know. Or simply if you would like to come in and read a book, do some painting, build a tower!



If you think you could help in any other way please speak with your keyworker or the leadership team Mrs Mills, Mrs Mash

Parent Consultations Friday 5th July

The parent consultations will take place on Friday 5th July, specific timings and details will be advised closer to the time. Leavers reports will be going out w/c 1st July which can be discussed if needed at your 10 minute consultation. If you wish to discuss your child's progress or if you have any concerns in the meantime, please do not hesitate to speak with your keyworker.

Sunscreen

Hopefully the warm weather will be with us again soon. We have plenty of St John's Playgroup hats which the children wear when outside in the sun. We would ask you to apply sun cream to your children before coming in to playgroup. If it's particularly hot and sunny, we can give the children a top up. If your child does have an allergy to some sun creams, please let us know and then you can provide your own.



We would ask that children still wear sensible shoes and sandals, some flip-flops with a back strap don't give the children the support their feet need when using the climbing equipment.

Fruit Sharing

Please remember to bring in a piece or two of fruit each week to share with the other children at snack time. You could also bring in raisins, bread sticks or raisin bread, any contributions is always gratefully received!

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2019 23/4-19/7

Tue 14/5 Kerber Photographer, all children invited. see letter

27/5-31/5 Half term, closed

Sun 9th Jun - Potters Bar Carnival, see separate letter

Fri 5th Jul - Parent Consultations see above

Tues 9th July - Farewell picnic and fund raising event, details to follow

Fri 19th July last day of term

Autumn Term 2019 2/9-18/12

Mon 2/9 & Tue 3/9 inset days - closed

Wed 4th Sept - children's first day back

Fri 6th Sept - new children's first visit

TBA - Harvest Festival

28 Oct-1st Nov - Half term - closed

Wed 18 Dec - Nativity Play and last day of term, we finish at 12.55