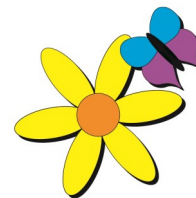


Playgroup News

May 2022

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www.stjohnsbakerstreet.co.uk
Facebook: St John's Nursery Playgroup, Potters Bar



We welcome the new children and families that have started with us this Term. Your child's keyworker is available to see you at the beginning or at the end of the session if there is anything you wish to discuss regarding your child or children.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER WILL EITHER NEED TO BE TYPED IN OR COPY AND PASTED FROM THE OUR WEBSITE OR EMAILED COPY

Summer Theme

The focus for this term is Life Cycles and Growing. The tiny little caterpillars arrived, starting their journey of turning into butterflies. The cocoons have formed so hopefully we will have butterflies before half term. We also have a family of stick insects which the children have been getting to know. After the half term week the chick eggs should be with us hatching after 21 days.

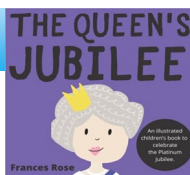


We have been for lots of walks, visiting Sainsbury's to buy food for snack time, the allotment to see what they grow and we even walked up to the platform at the station

The Potters Bar Carnival Theme is 'the Queen's Jubilee' so we will be talking about the royal family, reading relevant books and adding some craft activities. So far this term we have done lots of planting and talking about what plants need to grow. We hope to see the sunflowers, carrots and beans growing later in the term. This was a really popular theme, where the children got really involved and are regularly checking on growth rate.

Potters Bar Carnival 12 June

You are all invited to attend the carnival procession with us. Each child will need to come with a grown up. The theme is CELEBRATING THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE as requested by the carnival organisers. Please see the letter coming soon with full details of the event. Please let us know if you have any ideas for costumes, accessories and crafts which we could prepare. We will be decorating 'straw' hats, copying the queens beautiful hats. We will make gold and silver crowns, soldiers and queens made out toilet rolls. Simple costumes by wearing Red, White & Blue clothes. We need toilet roll tubes and artificial flowers if you have any to spare



Jubilee

We would like to thank St John's Methodist Church for the lovely book (The Girl Who Grew Up To Be Queen) which they have given to the children. The playgroup will arrange a celebration when we return after half term.

Toys...

Children love to 'borrow' toys or items they are particularly attracted to but unfortunately it does leave us with missing jigsaw pieces, missing dice or play money etc. Small pieces are often part of a larger set and can leave an activity very incomplete if any of the pieces are missing. Please check your children's pockets and return any items that may have 'slipped' into their pockets. We understand and no questions will be asked.



NEXT TERM SESSIONS

With around 30 children leaving at the end of the summer term, we have lots of spaces from September onwards. Please note your choice of additional sessions on the form on the notice board or contact us via text or email

If you think you might be eligible for 30 hours of funding please check via the childcare choices government website. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> before 31 August. You will need to meet certain criteria which will be clear once you login. Please let friends know that we have spaces available from September (who have children of playgroup age)

Please ensure your child arrives at playgroup in appropriate clothing for a fun, messy, outdoor, indoor, painting, gluing, playdough, water, shaving foam, cornflour, lots of fun kind of day!

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 you may choose to provide your



Staff & Recruitment

We welcome Mrs Odedra (blue Dolphin) and Mrs Mclennon (yellow Lion) to the playgroup team. Both are settling in well and getting to know all the children and routines. Claire Dean continues to cover for staff absences. We have two students on weekly placements and we are welcoming young people to join us for their work placement week at various times during this term.

Supporting your children

Children 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 your child's new school. Several teachers have booked in already. This gives the teachers the opportunity to see the child in an educational setting where they are already settled. We will note on the notice board which teachers are visiting when.

We also have a lovely poster with tips for parents about getting their child ready for school.

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2022—19 April—22 July

Mon 30 May—Fri 3 June Half term, playgroup closed
Sunday 12 June Potters Bar Carnival (details to follow)
Week commencing 11 July parent consultations
July: Picnic, fundraising & sports day
July: End of term party

Autumn Term 2022 5 September- 16 December

Monday 5 September children start
Friday 9 September 12.15-2 new children induction
October: harvest event in church
October Photographer Brett Lenman
Monday 24—Friday 28 October: Half Term
Friday 16 December Nativity (to be confirmed)