



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 NEWLETTER WILL EITHER NEED TO BE TYPED IN OR COPY AND PASTED FROM

Summer Theme

The focus for this term has been Life Cycles and Growing. The tiny little caterpillars turned into butterflies and we watched them fly away. We had the beautiful chicks which we saw hatch and then quickly grow. They have moved to a lovely garden with other hens. The tadpoles are slowly growing, the children watching with interest as legs are starting to form. We plan to go for lots of walks, looking at how plants are getting bigger and visiting the local allotment. So far this term we have done lots of planting and talking about what plants need to make them 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.



We are learning lots of science while playing with water, fitting pipes together, seeing how quickly the ball runs down the pipe when you tilt it. Exploring natural materials such as pine cones, wood offcuts, leaves and stones all help to enhance natural learning.

For the last few weeks of the term our topic will be **The Colour Monster** and lots of our activities will be supporting the children to express their feelings. As many of our children are moving onto school, they are often displaying different behaviours as they look forward/fear the move. The child will explore feeling/emotions such as happy, fear, sad, calm etc through the colours.

We will be introducing initial sounds in words.

Internet Safety

We cannot overstress the importance of keeping your children safe on the internet. It is often easy for them to access unsuitable content if you don't have parental control set up. Chicken Clicking is a good book to start talking to your child. This link is useful: <https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

Potters Bar Carnival 11 June 2022

Unfortunately we had to cancel our day at the carnival as it was decided it was just too hot for the children to walk through town in the glaring heat of the sun. We had some lovely costumes ready on the topic of 'books by Julia Donaldson'. We had lots of stickman characters, Room on the Broom witches and other animals. Maybe we can use them next year!

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 20 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. You may also be able to take advantage the Tax Free childcare scheme on the same website

Please let friends know that we have spaces available from September (who have children of play-group age)

Teeth

As children are increasingly presenting with tooth decay across the country, we are keen to help our children to have better teeth health. We have teamed up with the Family Centre who have provided a 'Top Tips for Children's Teeth' pack for every child. Please do read the advice in the leaflet. We advise that you sign up with a dentist for your child as soon as they start on solid food so they can get used to going

Hopefully the warm weather will continue.

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 into 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 own.



We would ask that children still wear sensible shoes and sandals with a back strap; flip-flops are not suitable. Don't give the children the support their feet need when using the climbing equipment.

Supporting your children

Children de-

velop 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 to distinguish between everyday sounds and some 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/>

Church Summer BBQ

You and your family are all invited to the Church summer Barbeque taking place on Sunday 16th July at Morven Guide Centre, 12.30-4.30. Adults £5, children under 16 are free. Includes lunch, dessert and hot drinks—please bring your own hot drinks and you may want to bring a picnic blanket. Games and activities will be organised for all ages. Everyone who uses the church (such as for playgroup, yoga, jumping john's and their families are welcome but needs to be pre-booked. Tickets from Sally Gunning 07941223102. More information to follow



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 are having 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

Monday 17 April—Friday 21 July (13 weeks)

Monday 17 April Inset day, playgroup closed
Tuesday 18 April—current children return
Fri 21 April 12.20 —new children's induction visit
Monday 1 May - Bank Holiday
Monday 8 May - Coronation holiday
Mon 29 May—Fri 2 June Half term, closed
Saturday 27 May Scout and Church spring market
Sun 11 June Potters Bar Carnival - all children plus an adult invited. Letter to follow
Sunday 16 July. Church BBQ—see article
Week commencing 10 July parent consultations
Friday 21 July: Picnic, sports day & end of term event at Furzefield open space & woods
Saturday 16 July church BBQ at Morven

Autumn term 2023

Monday 4 Sept - Friday 15 Dec (14 weeks)

Monday 4 Sept- inset day - playgroup closed
Tuesday 5 Sept current children start
Friday 8 Sept new children induction 12.20
Monday 23 - Friday 27 Oct Half Term playgroup closed
Week of 4th December, parent consultations
Thursday 14th December - Nativity in Church - all children and their families invited

Spring Term 2024

8 January— 28 March (11 weeks)

Friday 5 January inset day
Monday 8 Jan—current children return
Friday 12 January new children induction 12.20
Monday 19 —Friday 23 February Half term, playgroup closed
Thursday 7 March World Book Day dressing up day

Thurs 28 March— Easter Service in Church TBC