

Playgroup News

ST JOHN'S
NURSERY
PLAYGROUPS



St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

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March 2010

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Summer Term Topic

To build on the children's interest of



listening to stories and looking at books we will be exploring the world of literature. We will start by looking at traditional tales such as 'the 3 Little Pigs', 'Billy Goats Gruff' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. We will then talk to the children about their favourite stories and introduce some new books, continuing the book topic. During the summer term the caterpillars will arrive, the garden will be filled with new plants and we will be exploring the local area using the 'Walkodile'.

Potters Bar Carnival

Every year St John's Nursery Playgroups participate in the Potters Bar Carnival as a walking float. We have come first the last three years. This year the Carnival is on Sunday 13th June. We are joined by our sister playgroup, St John's Oakmere and together we walk in the parade dressed to our chosen theme. This year it will be related to our love of books and favourite stories. More information to follow in due course.

Parent Helpers



The Summer term is our busiest with 12 new children joining us after Easter and no children leaving. We would really appreciate it if any parents could spare an hour a week to come and help, either on a regular or occasional basis. You can have fun supervising the messy play, read a book to the children in the book corner, colouring-in, help build a railway across the floor, or you may have a special talent which will enrichen the children's morning. Any help would be fantastic. We would additionally like some help on days when we go for a walk in the local area, using our Walkodile. If you can help please speak with Mrs Mash or Mrs Mills.

Healthy Snacks

Thank you to all who

contribute to our healthy snack day on Thursday's. We have some great varieties of fruit to sample, sometimes for the first time for the children! A banana, apple, bunch of grapes, clementines, mangoes, kiwi fruit - all contributions are greatly appreciated and the children enjoy seeing 'their' fruit served up for all to eat!



Capital & TOPS Grants

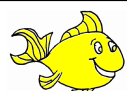
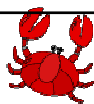
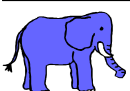
We have been busy spending

the two grants we received last year. The garden extension, new trikes, dolls, buggies Alti balancing equipment, remote controlled bugs, bird feeders, trampoline, jigsaws to name a few. Our latest acquisition is a playhouse which the Scout group are assembling on our behalf; we like to keep all labours within the community! On the 25th March a retractable awning will be fitted over the play area to protect us from rain or sunshine! Watch this space....

Lunch Club

Lunch club continues to be very successful with 12 children

nearly every day. For the Summer Term (after Easter) please don't forget to record your name on the form on the notice board and pick up a flexible hours booking form. Remember you can use lunch club as part of your flexible 15 hours for those receiving the Government Funding for over 3 year olds. When the weather warms up, we will have picnics in the outside play area and make use of our new picnic table set. It would be lovely to see some new faces. See Mrs Mash for further information.



Staff Updates



Congratulations to:
Mrs Mills for

obtaining her Early Years Professional Status.

There are only 2 EYP's in Potters Bar, Celia Mills and Karen Murphy at our sister playgroup at Oakmere School (more on Karen later).

Mrs Cooke has finished her NVQ 3 in Early Years, congratulations Mrs Cooke! Mrs Butterfield continues with her NVQ 3, hoping to be finished by the end of July. Mrs Turner and Mrs Conyers are going to start their NVQ 3 after Easter. It is fantastic that so many of our staff are continuing their professional development which can only mean better quality care and education for your children.

BAKER STREET

Summer Term at St John's is always the busiest term of the year, with more children joining us after Easter and no children leaving until July. Therefore at Baker Street, we are looking for a temporary playgroup assistant to join our committed, dynamic team of early years practitioners. Please see the advertisement on the notice board in the Upper Room for more details. Interviews and appointment will be made before the end of term.

OAKMERE SCHOOL

Karen Murphy, the Leader at our Oakmere School setting, is moving on to develop her career in Early Years and will be leaving St John's at the end of this term. Therefore we are advertising for an enthusiastic, experienced practitioner to lead the team at Oakmere. For further details, please see that advert and the younginherts.hertsdirect.org website. Application forms for either position and for more information please see Mrs Mills.

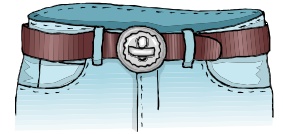
As a new leader is unlikely to be appointed until later in the summer term, Mrs Mills (as Manager of both St John's playgroups) will be spending several days each week at Oakmere supporting the staff team and then whilst a new leader settles into their busy role. As she will be spending less time at Baker Street during this time of change, Mrs Mash will be working as the acting Leader, with the continued support from Mrs Mills to ensure continuity of care.

Children's Clothing

One of the areas we work

on with the children at playgroup is developing independence. This can be in getting their own coat on and off to go outside, pouring milk and water into their beakers and going to the toilet.

Although there are some gorgeous outfits for both boys and girls, some of them aren't very 'user friendly' for little fingers, like stiff buttons or



tricky belts. Particularly when children are first learning to use the toilet independently, it helps them to 'get access' quickly. Can you please check that your child can undo buttons or belts by themselves, it prevents any stress in them when they take themselves to the toilet but can't get to the next stage. Many thanks for your co-operation and understanding.

Important Dates for your Diary

SPRING TERM

Thursday 1st April last day of term

SUMMER TERM

Mon 19th April - Fri 23rd July

19-23 April No lunch club

Monday 19th April Inset Day, Playgroup closed

Tuesday 20th April All children return and New children visit at 1.15pm.

Monday 3rd May Bank Holiday, Playgroup closed

Thursday 6th May Polling day, Playgroup closed

Monday 24th May Black/white photographer

Mon 31st May - Fri 4th June Half term, playgroup closed

Sunday 13th June Potters Bar carnival, all invited

Friday 23rd July Last day of term, no lunch club

Additional dates to be arranged:

- Teddy Bears Picnic
- Summer party
- Barnardo's Big Toddle charity day with a pirate theme!

