

Playgroup News

July 2010

A combined Baker Street and Oakmere Newsletter

Potters Bar Carnival

What a wonderful day we had at the Potters Bar Carnival this year and firstly thank you to all the parents that joined in our walking float and taking so much effort to dress the children and themselves in fantastic outfits. Once again, we were bright and colourful and I'm sure cars driving along the roads didn't know whether to stop or go with so many signs they saw! And it was reassuring to have a police officer in the ranks, even if it was just pretend!! The children did very well walking such a long distance and demonstrating good road safety skills and wearing hats to keep safe in the sun.



We won 2nd prize this year and it was great to see the first prize be awarded to one of our fellow walking floats, after all, we have won 3 years in a row! Any ideas for next year would be greatly received...

Fees and funding

To keep in line with government funding, the playgroup fees will be going up to £11.40 in September 2010 and lunch club will be £3.80. This still remains a very good competitive rate at only £3.80 per hour for quality children care and education. Remember too, that we are **flexible** so if you want to start your day a little earlier (at Baker Street) or add an afternoon (at Oakmere) or lunch at both settings, please see Mrs Mills or Mrs Mash (Baker Street).

Outside Enhancements

The Tops Grant that both playgroups received last year, enabled both settings to enhance their outside play area. At Baker Street, we recently installed a large awning that covers a good third of the play area. It really has improved the outside play area by giving valuable shelter if it is drizzling and yet gives much needed shade when the sun is out! It also makes the area feel much cozier. We also were able to purchase a wooden play house for the children - which is proving very popular. There are many tea parties taking place inside if the boys aren't banging away fixing the walls and windows with their tools!



with their tools!

At Oakmere the rubberised surface has finally been laid (thank you for everyone's patience); also the canopy has been installed, so we can now enjoy mud free outdoor play all year round, whatever the weather! This will have a positive impact on the children's outdoor learning and already the children have had fun testing out the new surface with bikes, scooters, chucks and paint, so far it has proved very tough.

Activities

On the 20th April Oakmere took delivery of 10 chickens' eggs. We were very excited when, within a few hours, the eggs started hatching in the incubator. The large viewing windows allowed the children to see all stages of hatching. We were all amazed something so big could fit inside an egg. The chicks were then moved their brooder box, complete with heat light, bedding, feed and water which allowed staff and children easy observation and access to the chicks. For two weeks we all enjoyed our daily cuddles with chicks! They have all now found new homes.



Activities cont..

Both Baker Street and Oakmere have run with the Road Safety theme this month. Both settings used the Road safety equipment supplied on loan by County where the children got to be a lollipop person and stop the traffic with road signs and cross the crossings and learn about the green man and red man at traffic lights.

Oakmere, with the help of the Hertfordshire Road Safety Team, had a demonstration in the hall to the Playgroup and Oakmere's nursery and reception classes. The children were reminded of the importance of holding a grownups hand when near a road and wearing seatbelts in cars. The children demonstrated their knowledge on the walk to the Elm Court on carnival day. Well done children!

Caterpillars have just arrived at Oakmere and Baker Street and we are looking forward to watching the journey from little caterpillar to BIG caterpillar to butterfly to fly away....



Staff Update

We are in the final stages of recruiting a new leader for Oakmere. We hope to have an excellent candidate starting in September. More information to follow.



Many of our staff are currently studying for their NVQ Level 3 in Childcare or have recently finished. At Oakmere, Wendie Nokes, Sarah Dicker, Leanne Travell and Cathy Sewell-Cooper are currently studying Level 3 and Sarah Dicker and Tracey Jones are continuing their SENCO training. In Baker Street, Ann Conyers, Anna Turner and Jackie Hart are also studying for Level 3. Rebecca Cooke and Helen Butterfield recently achieved their qualification in L3. Well done ladies and keep up the good work.

Treasure Box and Lost Property

Could you please regularly check the treasure box for items that may have been brought in by the children and yet forgotten to take home - ranging from toys to clothing, girls hair pieces and lunch club items. Thank you.

Sun Hats and Cream

We have had some lovely sunny days already but can you please apply sun cream to your child/children in the morning before playgroup and can you ensure they bring a hat (hats with a wide brim recommended for maximum protection) with their name clearly marked in it. Thank you!



Goodbye !!

This is the term when we say goodbye to many children at both settings. From both playgroups, children will be going to a variety of the primary schools in Potters Bar from St Giles at South Mimms to Little Heath and Pope Paul, some going into nurseries whilst others are going straight into Reception. We wish all the children the very best in their future education and would love to hear how they are getting on so do please come and see us some time.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe summer holidays, good bye to those that are leaving and we look forward to seeing all of you who are staying with us in the Autumn Term. From all the staff at St Johns.

Important Dates for your Diary

Baker Street

Summer Term

Saturday 3 July Church fete

Thursday 22 July Party/Teddy Bears Picnic (more detail to follow)

Toddle Waddle: Parent committee arranging
23rd July LAST DAY of TERM no lunch club

Autumn Term 6 Sept–17 Dec

Mon 6th Sept. am. Existing children start

Tue 7th Sept pm. New children induction

Mon 13 Sept Lunch club starts

Mon 25th–Fri 29th Oct Half Term

Fri 17 Dec Last day of term no lunch club

Oakmere

Summer Term

Saturday 12 July Stall at Oakmere Park

Friday 23 July Party and Last day of term

Autumn Term 6 Sept–17 Dec

Mon 6th Sept. Existing children start

Mon 25th–Fri 29th Oct Half Term