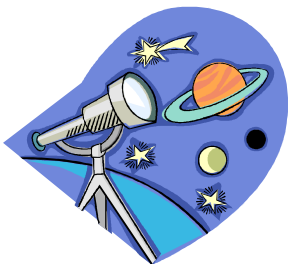


# Playgroup News

May 2008

**W**elcome to all the new children that joined St John's Playgroup after the Easter holidays. The new children have mostly settled into our fun and busy routine very well. This term will be extra busy as we get ready for the Potters Bar Carnival in June where we will be participating as a walking float. We will have our annual teddy bear's picnic in July at our Sunny Bank Playgroup location and witness caterpillars (arriving after half term) disappear into cocoons then turn into butterflies!

## Carnival Theme - Space

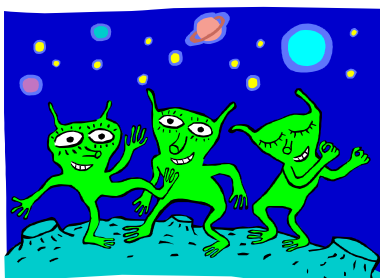


Every year St John's Nursery Playgroup participates in the Potters Bar Carnival in the walking float. The last two years we have come 1<sup>st</sup> and the year before 2<sup>nd</sup>, let's make

it a hat trick this year!

As you know, the theme for this term is Our Wonderful World and Recycling. For the carnival, we have decided to focus on space. Hopefully this will give us a wide range of areas to cover - sun, planet, moon, stars, rockets, space men, aliens and flying saucers, all made from recycled materials.

In the coming weeks during our adult led craft activities, we will be busy making lots of items but not all of them will make their way home as we will be using them for the carnival. If you have any ideas and/or would like to be creative, come and join us make some exciting costumes for the carnival. More details about the Carnival will follow in soon.



**Sun Hats and Cream** As the weather warms up and we have more opportunity to spend time outside, can you please apply sun cream to your child/ children in the morning before playgroup. Please make sure they bring a hat (hats with a wide brim recommended for maximum protection) with their name clearly marked on it. Children won't be allowed outside without a hat.

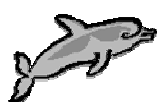
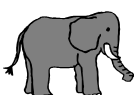


**Extra Days Next Term or Leaving?** URGENT If your child is remaining with us and you would like to in-

crease or change their days after the summer holiday, please complete the 'Extra Days Next Term' on the notice board. We will do our best to accommodate all requests received. This information is needed before we can allocate days to the new children wishing to join in September.

If your child is leaving us at the end of this term, going either to school or nursery, please also indicate this on the list. We will invite your child's new 'teacher' to visit next half term as part of a smooth transition. Any unallocated sessions will be offered to the new children starting in September.

**Parent Helpers** As this is a busy term with lots of new and existing children, we would welcome any parent who would like to come and help us, either on a regular or occasional basis. Sitting in the book corner reading to the children or at one of the tables encouraging and talking with them is of real benefit. If you feel your child is settled enough and you could spare an hour to come in and help us, we would love to hear from you. Please let us know if you can help.



## St John's Sunny Bank News

Following the Potters Bar review which resulted in Sunny Bank School closing, and news from



Herts County Council (HCC) that the use of a porta cabin in Cranborne is not guaranteed for September 2009, possibly not until January 2010, the playgroup Oversight Committee have been meeting with Oakmere School and the Children's Centre

based in Oakmere, to see if it is a safer and more secure option for our playgroup based in Sunny Bank to move to Oakmere School.

The staff at Oakmere and the Children's Centre are very keen to have us, it will provide a much needed additional playgroup provision for children from the Oakmere area. HCC have been proactive in obtaining funding, the school has vacated a classroom for our use, with our own washroom, outside play area and the opportunity to share the foundation unit playground and resources.

So the decision and agreement was made last week and we plan to open up at Oakmere this coming Autumn Term, September 2008.

If you know of any families who might be interested in joining our playgroup at Oakmere, please speak to Celia Mills or Karen Murphy our Sunny Bank leader on 077604 26968.

**St John's Sunny Bank** have arranged for an **open day** at their current venue on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June** See separate poster for details of the day.

## Staff Announcements

Ana Marsh and her daughter Grace, will be leaving us in July as her family are moving out of London. We therefore are looking for a new member of staff. If you know of any one who is interested in working in childcare who either has a relevant qualification (NVQ Level 3 or 2) or is willing to undertake training, please speak with Mrs Mills in confidence.

**Coat Rack** As you have probably noticed, the cloakroom area is rather crowded, especially this term with up to 39 children each day. *Please can we ask you to bring only items which the children might need during the morning. Small string bags are ideal. If you need to bring a big bag—please can you place this on the floor to allow easier access for the children to get to their outdoor clothing.*

*Reminder: Please name all items of clothing. If you would like to order name labels—please use the order form which will be available in the morning during registration.*

**Children's Yoga** Thank you to those parents and carers who have already contributed £5 for the Yoga lessons. We are still collecting contributions.

The children are really enjoying the sessions, joining in and following the teacher as you takes them on a magical story. The staff are having 20 minutes relaxation too, just what is needed!



## Important Dates for your Diary

### SUMMER TERM

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup>-Fri 30<sup>th</sup> May** Half term — closed  
**w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> June** Road Safety Week

**30<sup>th</sup> June 11.30am** Road Safety Talk for ALL parents and carers.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June** PB carnival -all parents & children invited—further details to follow

?? Teddy Bears Picnic

?? summer party

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July** LAST DAY of TERM

### AUTUMN TERM - September 2008

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> & Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September** New Children

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September**—all children start

