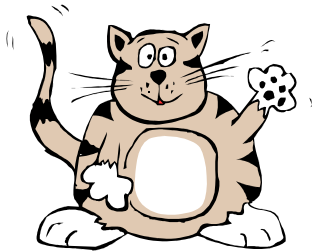


# Playgroup News

July 2008

**I**t is nearing the end of the summer term and as normal for this term, we will be saying goodbye to lots of 'our' children, this term 30 in fact! Some will be moving on to a nursery class and others will be going straight into reception. We wish them well and all the best in their future education. We would love to hear how they are getting on so do drop in some time.



The staff are in the process of completing the reports for the children who are leaving and pictures are being taken to remind the children of their time at St John's.

We are also busy preparing for the new children who will be starting in September currently 23. Some of these children will be coming from our Sunny Bank site, we especially welcome them to our Baker Street setting.

**W**e apologise that the Road Safety talk did not take place this term. The Road Safety Officer from County has been unwell in hospital but has promised to give us first priority in the Autumn Term. We did do road safety with the children all week, they were excellent in remembering the road safety rules.

**T**he Teddy Bears Beach Party will be taking place on Thursday 17th July with Mr Marvel coming to entertain the children (and us) at 12noon. If you are free on the morning and would like to help out, please give your name to one of the staff.

**Children's Yoga** The yoga has been a great success this term. We have had two outside professionals visit the setting and they think it is absolutely fantastic that we are running this course, teaching the children how to slow down, concentrate on their bodies and thoroughly enjoy themselves in the process. We hope to continue in the Autumn term, stay tuned to the notice board for more information.



## Staff News

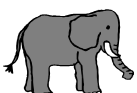
**W**e say good bye to 3 members of staff this term. Tracey Jones is furthering her professional development by moving with our Sunny Bank setting to the new Oakmere School location and working with 2 children with special needs. Thank you Tracey for the many years you have dedicated to St John's Baker Street but we will continue to see her as the two playgroups work closely together.

Lisa Wilson is moving to St Giles Primary school, again developing her child care experience by following a child with special needs to work with him on a one-to-one basis. Thank you Lisa for your commitment and new ideas.

Ana Marsh and her daughter Grace are planning to move to Tring with their family later this year so it is a good break point for her to leave St John's. Thank you Ana for the refreshing input you have provided the playgroup. We wish all three ladies the very best in their future careers.

**W**e welcome Mandy Lote who will be joining us in September. Mandy has worked with children for many years in different capacities. I'm sure you'll welcome Mandy as she settles into this new busy role.

We still have one more position available. If you are interested in starting a very rewarding career in child care or know of someone who is, please come and speak with Mrs Mills or Mrs Mash in confidence. We would prefer someone with current childcare qualifications, or we can provide this through Young in Herts.



## Fees and funding



### JULY 2008

If you have any outstanding fees and/or lunch club payments, can you please ensure they are submitted by Friday 11th July. If you are not sure if you owe anything, please see Mrs Mills for fees and Mrs Mash for Lunch club payments, thank you.

### SEPTEMBER 2008

From September 2008, the fees are going up to £8.50 per session, still well below the government recommended amount of £10.50 for 3 hours. Can I remind you that funding for 3 year olds is only available to you if your child is 3 by 31 August. Forms will be issued next term.

The nursery funding arrangements will change yet again. Initially this should not affect any of the children, but will make a difference to how we work out the funding allocated to each child. Since its instigation the funding has been for up to 2 ½ hours each day (12½ hours per week), with St John's Nursery Playgroup subsidising each child for the additional ½ hour each session. From September every child will be funded for the full 3 hours/day (15 hours per week).

Funding will continue to be available to families on low income if the child is 2 years old. Early in the new term we will be sending out a questionnaire about how we can best offer the funding to suit all families with an element of flexible timing. We hope you will be able to help us complete these forms.

### **Timely Reminder**

We had an incident recently where at the end of lunch club, the two staff were engaged with parents/carers and a child 'slipped through the net' and was waiting for his mum in the corridor. Mum arrived and everybody was safe, but if you wish to speak with staff at the end of the session which we do encourage, can you please wait until all the children have been safely collected by a parent or carers and we are free to give you 100% of our attention. Thank you for your co-operation.

## St John's Sunny Bank is moving to Oakmere School



You have probably heard by now that our Sunny Bank setting is moving to Oakmere School in the Autumn term. It is exciting new times for us at St Johns. Herts County have been fantastic in facilitating the organisation of the move, completely refurbishing one of the rooms and reception area, building new toilet facilities and outdoor play area. If you know of anyone in the Oakmere area who would benefit from a playgroup close to home, then please contact our Leader at Sunny Bank/Oakmere, Karen Murphy on 07760 426968.

## Collection of Coats & Bags

To make life simpler for all, at the end of the session, if you wish to collect your child's bag please do so but once we start to call the children's names, any bags and coats uncollected will be picked up by the child themselves with the help of a staff member. We have encouraged the older children to collect their own belongings and this has proven very positive for them. Please also remember to label hats and coats. Thank you for your consideration.



*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 us 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

### SUMMER TERM

11th July all outstanding monies due

17th July Teddy Bears Beach Party

Friday 18th July *LAST DAY of TERM*

### AUTUMN TERM - September 2008

Thursday 4th & Friday 5th Sept. New Children

Monday 8th Sept. all children start

Monday 15th Sept. Lunch club resumes

Road Safety week—t.b.a.

