

# Playgroup News

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October 2008

Welcome to all our children and families, we hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, in between the rain showers! However September's weather seemed to make up for it, a little! We look forward to a busy term with 21 new children starting who already, are settling down well into the busy routine.

## Topic

This term we will be focusing on traditional nursery rhymes like Humpty Dumpty, Baa Baa Black sheep and Hickory Dickory Dock to name a few, as well primary colours. We will also look at Autumn, Diwali, Fireworks and of course Christmas.



The children will be exploring colours through painting both using brushes and their hands which they love the most! They will be learning about shapes as well as playing with numbers and counting. A copy of our weekly plans are available on the notice board in the Upper Room.

## EYFS - Early Years Foundation Stage

As you may have seen in the press/heard on the news, everyone working with children aged 0-5 years have to follow the EYFS curriculum. This sounds very serious if you believe some of the stories, but in fact the children at St John's are still learning through play, with carefully chosen toys which encouraged them to learn. Trained adults guide the children to their next area of learning, all while they play and explore the setting. All children are unique and as such they are all on their own learning journey which we respect. A brochure will soon be available explaining more about the EYFS.

## St John's at Oakmere School

We are very excited that our sister playgroup based at Sunny Bank found a new home at Oakmere School. Karen Murphy and her team worked very hard at the end of last term and the beginning of this term to ensure that it was 'business as usual' for the playgroup in their new location. The new location has offered an opportunity for children living in the Oakmere area to attend a preschool for the first time. We wish Karen and her expanding team all the very best in the coming months, they are already full with a waiting list!!

## Playgroup AGM

We will be holding our Playgroup AGM on Thursday 16th October 2008 immediately after lunch club at 1.30pm in the Clifton Room. All parents, carers and interested parties are welcome to come along, we would really appreciate your views, ideas and feedback. Toys will be available to keep children occupied. We aim to keep the meeting short (30-45 minutes).

If you are interested in participating and would like your child to attend lunch club on that day, the usual lunch club fee of £3.00 will apply. Please use booking forms provided.



## Lunch Club



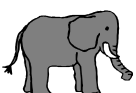
Our lunch club is open every day this term, it has become very popular in recent years. With flexible funding now available, it does mean you can 'spend' some of your funded hours, 15 hours per week in total, on lunch club. See Mrs Mash or Mrs Mills for further information if you are interested.

## Staff News

We are pleased to welcome to the staff team this September Sarah Whitty and Rebecca Cooke. Sarah has worked with children for many years in different capacities; nanning for many years and working in a sessional nursery and more recently in a day care nursery. Sarah has completed her Foundation Degree in Early Years Child-care and is currently studying towards her BA (Hons) Education Studies.

Rebecca has been helping in her local school for many years and has decided this is the career direction she would like to pursue. Rebecca is studying for her NVQ Level 2 at Oaklands College.

I am sure you will join us in making Sarah and Rebecca very welcome.



## Yoga

Yoga was very popular last term for both children and staff alike. Because of the feedback we received from parents, we are running it this term, continuing on a Wednesday. For the whole term, we are only asking for a small £5 contribution from each child to participate. If you have not already made your payment, please can you give it to Mrs Mills or Mrs Mash. If we don't receive enough to cover costs, I'm afraid we won't be able to continue it in the new year and that would be a shame as it is very popular.



## Parent Helpers

We have already had a couple of parent volunteers to come and help. If you could spare some time, even an hour occasionally, we would love to hear from you. A friendly face to sit at a table and help with puzzles, read books in the book corner or throw balls in the garden, all of which are of real benefit to the children. It will also help us while we implement the EYFS. Please let us know if you are interested.

## Tissues

It's that time of year when noses start running and throats start coughing. We would be grateful if every child could bring in a box of tissues to see us through until Christmas.



## Funding

Thank you everyone who promptly returned their funding forms - the second version! It's quite exciting the way funding is going i.e. you are now funded up to 15 hours a week and can be 'spent' in different ways i.e. including lunch club. If you are interested in learning more, please speak with Mrs Mash or Mrs Mills.

## Key Worker Groups

The eight key worker groups are displayed on the notice board. Please feel free to speak to your child's key worker or Mrs Mills about any concerns you have, we are here to help and support you as well as your child at any time. We recognise that each child is on a unique learning journey and would like to work with you to develop your child's progress.

## Treasure Chest

If your child wishes to bring in a toy from home, can you encourage them to put it in our 'treasure chest' which will be located in the upper room in the morning. Obviously if children who are settling in need a comfort toy or item to help them settle, they can keep this with them.



## Policies

Just a reminder that copies of all our policies and procedures and our Ofsted Report, are available in the Upper Room for parents to consult if they wish. We are currently updating some of the policies that will be signed off at the next AGM meeting.

## January 2009

We are already thinking about next Term, January 2009. In the upper room is a list with all the children's names, could you please record if your child is leaving and to which school they are going to OR if your child is staying and they would like extra days, please state your preferences. Thank you for your co-operation.



## Fruit Sharing Day

Thursday is our fruit sharing day, when we encourage children to bring in a piece of fruit to share. We will also continue to provide healthy snacks such as pitta bread, break sticks, cheese chunks, fresh chopped vegetables the other days of the week. Most people have paid their snack money fee, thank you. This one off payment takes us up to Christmas time. Any outstanding payments would be much appreciated, a red tin usually sits on the piano in the morning.



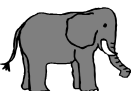
## Playgroup Polo-Shirts

You may have noticed that some of the children are wearing St John's Nursery Playgroup polo-shirts. After proving very popular at our Oakmere setting we are offering the opportunity for parents in Baker Street to purchase these for their children. The cost is £5.50 for one or £15.00 for three with a 5% commission going to St Johns from Lee Joys. Mrs Aylott is willing to take do a bulk purchase on behalf of the playgroup. If you are interested, please either contact Mrs Aylott direct or speak to Mrs Mills. A sample is displayed on the board soon.



## Dates for your Diary

**Photographer in Playgroup** - October 16th from 8.30am, siblings welcome!  
**Playgroup AGM** - all welcome Thursday 16th October at 1.30 straight after lunch club in the Clifton Room.  
**Half Term** 27th October - 31st October  
**Nativity Play** - Date to be advised.  
**Last Day of Term** - Friday 19th 2008



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