

Playgroup News

November 2024

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We welcome the new children and families that have started with us this Term. Your child's keyworker is available to see you at the beginning or at the end of the session if there is anything you wish to discuss regarding your child or children.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE LINKS IN THIS NEWSLETTER WILL EITHER NEED TO BE TYPED IN OR COPY AND PASTED FROM THE OUR WEBSITE OR EMAILED COPY

Autumn Theme

With the weather turning colder as winter approaches and leaves, seeds, acorns and conkers, are falling we would like to ask you and your child to continue to collect items from nature to enhance the children's learning. We have recently made use of some of your findings by making an autumn mobile to hang from the ceiling in our main playroom. We have taken part in lots of creative activities using the leaves and sticks that have been collected, we have done leaf rubbing, made Autumn reefs and hedgehog pictures.

We followed the children's voice recently and made a lovely rainbow cake. The children helped measure the ingredients, stir the mixture, pour the mixture and finally once the cake was cooked they all helped decorate it using lots of different coloured icing.

We have celebrated Diwali, fireworks, Hanukah and now look forward to Christmas. Over the next few weeks we will be practising our nativity and the children are already getting excited to show you all what they are learning. Please continue to practise the songs the children come home singing. We look forward to seeing everyone Christmas jumpers for Christmas jumper week, feel free to wear them every day if you wish.



Internet Safety

We cannot overstress the importance of keeping your children safe on the internet. It is often easy for them to access unsuitable content if you don't have parental control set up.

Chicken Clicking is a good book to start talking to your child. This link is useful:
<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/0-5/>

Staff News

As you are aware Mrs Alyson left in October after spending 13 years with the team. WE are pleased to say Mrs Keely and Mrs Sophie have taken over their new roles successfully.

We will be saying goodbye to our senior practitioner, Mrs Mushfika at the end of this term. She has been with us for 11 years helping us to support and teach so many children. She will truly be missed by colleagues, parents and children.

Library & Story

We have started to lend out story sacks which can make reading a story more interactive.

If you would like to borrow one of these please ask your child's keyworker. We only have a small selection currently but will be expanding the choice over the coming terms.



NEXT TERM SESSIONS

We have a number of children that are now eligible for 30 hour funding as of January 2025. If you think you might be eligible for 30 hours of funding for your 3 year old or your 2 year old because you work, please check via the childcare choices government website. <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/> **before 31 December.** You will need to meet certain criteria which will be clear once you login. You may also be able to take advantage the Tax Free childcare scheme on the same website. Please let friends know that we have spaces available from January (who have children of playgroup age)

Teeth

As children are increasingly presenting with tooth decay across the country, we are keen to help our children to have better teeth health. We regularly talk to the children about what foods are not good for our teeth and how we need to brush them every day. We advise that you sign up with a dentist for your child as soon as they start on solid food so they can get used to going



Notices and requests

Payment of Fees

In line with rising costs, we have increased our hourly rate from £7.00 per hour to £7.50 per hour from September 2024. Cash is welcome. We can also accept payment via BACS, the bank details are as follows:

CAF bank: St John's Methodist Church Potters Bar
Sort Code: 40 52 40
Account No: 00021445
Please use the name of your child as a reference.

Supporting your children

Children develop at different rates and at different ages. At St John's we support all children to move on to their next steps, whatever stage that is. In addition to the steps as outlined in the EYFS document, we are working on the following activities, communication and learning new words, phonics - learning to distinguish between everyday sounds and some letter sounds; playdough gym; ; recognising their name and for those who are showing an interest, writing their name.

See the following link which gives excellent advice for pre-writing skills: <https://childdevelopment.com.au/areas-of-concern/writing/writing-readiness-pre-writing-skills/>

Healthy Eating

At St John's we promote and encourage healthy eating. We as a nursery, following our statutory guidelines, have to ensure our children are given and eat the healthy options. Chocolate or cakes etc. are always given to the children when they have eaten other options in their boxes. **Remember NO SESAME SEEDS and NO NUTS IN ANY FORM, INCLUDING PEANUT BUTTER OR NUTELLA. We would ask parents please to cut all grapes, sausages etc in quarters lengthways, to avoid any choking hazards, and guidance also suggests avoiding popcorn and marshmallows (these can also cause a choking hazard).** This is important and the responsibility of parents as we cannot spend time cutting up your child's fruit when we have to support all our children during lunch.



Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2024

Christmas jumper week commencing 9th December.

Nativity- Tuesday 17th December

Thursday 19th December end of term celebration.

Thursday 19th December- LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM.

We return to nursery on the Tuesday 7th January 2025

Please beware of next years revised inset days.

**Friday 20th December inset day
Monday 6th January inset day
Monday 24th February inset day
Tuesday 22nd April inset day
Monday 2nd June inset day
Monday 21st July inset day
Tuesday 22nd July inset day**