



Autumn 1. September 2018

Welcome Back!



Dear parents and Carers.

Welcome back to Playgroup, we hope that you all had a relaxing summer and enjoyed the sunshine.

We are looking forward to seeing both existing and new children and the initial focus will be supporting separation and learning the new routines during the session along with some small group work so we can get to know our new friends. If you have anything that you are worried about or wish to discuss with us then please feel free to speak to a member of staff or alternatively you can use your child's red book.

OUR COMMITTEE

We would like to welcome our new committee members that have agreed to help support playgroup through the next academic year.

Clair Haynes – Chair Person (Poppy's Mum)

Charlene Sallis – Vice Chair (Isla's Mum)

Janette Hicks – Treasurer (Marnie's Mum)

Hayley Meakin – Secretary (Ollie's Mum)

Emma Reece – continues to help support the fundraising team. (former parent)

Without the support of parents Playgroup would not be able to run as we are a charity and purely funded by nursery vouchers and fees, fundraising helps us give the children additional resources that we would not normally be able to fund.

With the parents that have volunteered to help as extra fundraisers we look forward to a great year ahead!

Sadly, in July we said goodbye to our previous committee that have helped us along the way for the last 3 years, we wish them all well and thank them for their committed support. Farewell to Josie Pajak, Louisa Langley and Aimee Collins. Thank you all so very much!!!

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There are always a number of things in the first newsletter of the year – reminders for you all as well as information on our topics so **please read on** -

During the academic year we plan to explore different occupations, if you have a job or skill that you could share with the children, for example last year parents that were veterinary nurses, doctors and a dental nurse came in for a





morning to play and talked about their jobs which the children really enjoyed. If you feel that you could help us please speak to a member of staff and we can plan this in to our timetable over the academic year.

Safety First

Signing in/Out

Please ensure that you sign your child in and out of Playgroup every session on the sheet in the foyer and if someone other than yourself is collecting please let a member of staff know and ensure the collector has your child's password at collection time.

Once children are inside the main hall they are then Playgroups responsibility and likewise when they leave and enter the foyer at collection time they are your responsibility.

If your child has an existing injury please let us know that morning as we will need you to complete an existing injury form. It ensures that staff are extra vigilant if your child becomes unwell during the session. Thank you.

Snack Rota



Our snack rota is in the foyer, if you could help by making a contribution then please put your name down for one session over the half term to provide something for all the children to eat.

We have found that the children that bring the snack in are very excited about sharing what they have brought in for everyone to eat and like to talk about this during registration time. Initially during the Autumn term there will be about 20 children to cater for. A suggested **carbohydrate** variety could be a packet of crackers with cheese/box of cereal/breadsticks/loaf of bread/crumpets together with a small pack of butter/cheese/cheese spread/humous/tin of baked beans etc – the children really enjoy beans of toast, it's nice to give them a variety **PLUS** along with this we like to offer the children a choice of 2 items of **fresh fruit**, eg 4 apples, punnet of grapes or 3 bananas would be enough for one snack.

The children also love it when we take 'hot chocolate' up to our allotment too so hot chocolate occasionally would be lovely!! Thank you.

Learning journeys

The children's learning journeys are sent out to you throughout the year. It is a great way to see what your child has enjoyed doing, their learning and next steps. We like to share this information with you and also any other child carers that your child may attend in this way so that we can all work together sharing interests and ideas to best support your child. We plan to send them



out at either your child's first '4-week review' (new children) or in December when other children's summative assessments are sent out.

What to pack for your child each day (all named please)



- A change of clothes – (nappies or lots of pants and bottoms if toilet training)
- A coat
- Wellingtons
- Appropriate footwear for the days weather
- Suncream (named)
- Comforter (if needed)
- Book bag (provided by playgroup)
- Sun hat/winter hat
- Lunch box if staying all day or for the afternoon session (cool pack if weather hot)

N.B (unfortunately, we have to send soiled nappies home as we do not have disposal facilities in the community centre)

Please note – if your child brings in a toy from home they will be asked to leave it in their bag in the foyer so that it remains safe for the day. Thank you.

Duty Parents

We welcome duty parents to Playgroup, it is a great opportunity to see what your child does during a playgroup session meet some of their friends and have a chat with your child's key person about their progress/interests, if you would like to come in and help then please ask a member of staff.

Open Door Policy

If you would like to have a chat at any time regarding your child's progress or have something you wish to discuss, please let us know and we will arrange a mutually convenient time.

30 hour funding

If you are wishing to claim nursery vouchers over 15 hours then please email your code to eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com before 27th August.

Thank you.



Contact information

Don't forget to update us with any information changes such as contact phone numbers and new address.

Lunch boxes



We recommend that children have a sandwich, usually one roll or 2 slices of bread maximum, a yoghurt and fruit/raw vegetables such as carrots/peppers etc/ any grapes and tomatoes or similar shapes must be cut in half lengthways to avoid choking and **no nuts** please.

All food waste from lunch boxes is returned so that you are able to see how much quantity your child has eaten at lunch time. Staff will endeavour to check that half eaten yoghurt pots are rinsed out for you.

If you would like any more support Jen recently attended a course about fussy eaters and how to encourage and support them to try more foods to have a varied diet. This starts with getting the children involved in the food shop and food preparation progressing gradually onto food chaining (using food the child already eats and presenting it in a different form chips-mash).

If you feel you would like to chat to Jen for support or guidance with a reluctant/fussy eater then please do not hesitate to ask her. If we have enough interest we could always look at a parent workshop to pass on the information.

Dates for your diary

3rd September – IN SERVICE DAY NO CHILDREN

Tuesday 4th – 6th September – first week back to playgroup – all about me. Settling back into routines, painting self-portraits and getting to know everyone.

10th - 13th September – rules, talking about our families.

17th - 20th September – Goldilocks and the three bears, size, shape, colour, pattern.

24th - 27th September – recycled construction, musical instruments.

1st - 4th October – physical activity, hand and foot printing.

8th - 11th October – safety, allotment, ICT safety.

15th – 18th October - discussing autumn, making soup.

18th October – Final day of half term

29th October - **1st day back of Autumn 2 term.**

Inservice day 26th November



If you are interested in finding out more about our Playgroup, then please feel free to contact the friendly staff to arrange a visit to pop up and find out more.

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children from 2 ½ years to 4 years 11 months in a well established community based group.

We offer your children a safe and stimulating environment in which they can grow and blossom into self confident, self reliant and positive little people.

Our ultimate goal is to enable the children to have fun, explore and have the freedom to express their individuality, while forming the basis of their education.

At present we are operating a waiting list for September however we are happy for new parents to come and look around for an informal chat.

We operate 4 days a week offering full and half day sessions and we accept government nursery vouchers and other types of employer supported childcare vouchers. If you would like more details please contact Mandy Owen, Playleader 07977 342 742 – email eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com or visit our website eastingtonplaygroup.wordpress.com