

Dear Parents/carers,

We hope you have all enjoyed the summer break. It always amazes me quite how fast 6 weeks goes by. We are very much looking forward to welcoming back our existing children and welcoming new children and families into our playgroup.

Playgroup reopens for children on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and new starters will be staggered over the coming weeks. If your child is starting with us and you are unsure of their date and time please email us at [eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com](mailto:eastingtonplaygroup@hotmail.com) for these details to be confirmed.



We will no longer be having staggered drop off and collections (the only exception to this is if it is your child's first day with us). Playgroup opens at 9am for all children and we ask that they arrive by 9.30am at the latest please so they are in attendance for registration and can hear all about our



exciting plans for the day. If your child is going to be late please let us know so staff are made aware. Parents can collect at 12midday for a half day session or from 2.45pm until 3pm if your child is all day. We do ask that parents do not arrive before 2.45pm please as this is when we encourage further independent opportunities for children to gather their belongings and they become very distracted if they see their parents outside. If you need to collect early on occasion please give prior notice to staff. Children will continue to be

dropped off and collected through the decking gate, please queue up the path so that we can welcome children one at a time for a smooth and calm transition from parent/carer to playgroup.

A reminder that if your child is unwell or not attending their session please call playgroup on 07977342742 by 10am

The new academic year brings with it some changes which have been outlined in the letter attached, relating to our curriculum and the statutory framework we follow. These are all positive changes and takes the focus away from documenting your child's progress and moves it to relying on practitioner knowledge of the children; something we pride ourselves on at Eastington Playgroup. Key workers take time in your child's settling in sessions and throughout their time with us at playgroup to get to know and understand your child and the steps we need to take to develop their knowledge and development.



Other changes at this time relate to Covid. As you may be aware new Government guidance states that children under 18 no longer need to isolate if they are a close contact to someone who has tested positive for Covid. We would however ask that parents use their judgements in such cases particularly if someone in your household tests positive for covid.

Please be vigilant with regards to whether your child is displaying symptoms and if they are displaying symptoms please keep your children at home. If your child tests positive for covid with a PCR test, they must not attend playgroup until 10 days after their positive result. As some of our staff are still lucky to be so young, they have sadly not yet received their second jab meaning that if they are a close contact they must isolate, however this in turn means that playgroup are unable to open as we are a small team, so please bear this in mind if you are in any doubt about whether or

not it is safe/appropriate to send your child with symptoms. Playgroups decision about whether a child is able is able to attend is final, to safeguard the health and well being of the other children, families and staff within the setting and we ask that you respect this please. A Covid agreement will be given to all families to sign on your child's return if you do not already have one. We thank you for your continued understanding in this matter.

We are very much looking forward to all the exciting opportunities we have available to the children this term, looking at the change in seasons and exploring the environment and finding out about our new friends. Dare I say it; we will be practicing Christmas songs and be covered in glitter before we know it!



Please remember playgroup has an open-door policy and we are always here to listen to and answer any concerns about your child's learning and development and to support you at home should you need it. You can talk to your child's key person or any member of staff.

Look forward to seeing you all from Tuesday onwards.

Enjoy the weekend.

Jen, Donna, Michelle, and Nat x