

Playgroup News



St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

September 2011

Baker Street Mobile: 07969 924482 email: enquiries@stjohnsbakerstreet.co.uk
Oakmere Mobile: 07760 426968 email: enquiries@stjohns-oakmere.co.uk

We would like to welcome all the new families that have joined St John's Nursery Playgroups at both Baker Street and Oakmere School settings and welcome back to the families that are returning after the summer holidays. We look forward to working and playing with your children in the coming months.

Outstanding!

We are delighted

to announce that our Baker Street setting achieved an Outstanding Ofsted rating in June this year.



The full Ofsted report is available in the Upper Room at Baker Street and on the Ofsted website. Here are some quotes from the report:

"Children's health and well-being is promoted to a high standard through excellent practice and effective policies and procedures".

"Staff are excellent role models".

"The main hall provides a vibrant and interesting environment for children to play and explore. They can access a range of excellent resources from storage set around the room".

"The staff team strive to maintain the high quality of the setting and constantly look for ways to improve the quality of the care and education they provide".

There are so many fantastic statements so please feel free to come and read them for yourself or for a small contribution, you can take a copy home for yourself.

We have had a lot of congratulations from other professionals in the field so please, pass the good news around.

'Learning Journal'



Your child's learning journal is available

to view at any time, please speak with your child's key worker and don't forget to take a 'You're a

Star at Home' slip in the green plastic pocket at the end of the Notice Board in the upper room.

This Terms Topics

Oakmere

The children will be exploring the topic of All about Me and My Family this half term. We would be grateful if your child/children could bring in any photos of family or people, places or activities that are important to them. These can be shared by the children at circle time and, if you are happy for us to, we can display them on the notice boards inside the playgroup. We would also be grateful for any donations of hard bodied dolls the children can bath as many of our families have babies that need bathing! We will also be celebrating Eid-al-Fitr, the Jewish New Year, Diwali and in November we will be having a Road Safety Week.



Baker Street

This half term topic the children will be exploring is 'Our Summer holidays'. We would be grateful if your child could bring in a photo from their summer holidays which they could share during circle time. The photos will not be on display outside playgroup hours.



During the autumn term, the children will be introduced to Diwali and we will start to explore the wonders and colours of autumn. This year we will also be exploring the festival of Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah at the end of September. A copy of our plans are available if you would like to know more about what we do and how we plan within the EYFS.

Staff News

We would like to welcome Margaret

Steff at Baker Street who will be working on a one-to-one basis with a new child.

We are sorry to say good bye to Vasoulla Anastasis from Oakmere who has been with us for two and a half years. Vas is leaving us this term, we wish her all the best in the future.

The staff at both settings who were studying towards their NVQ Level 3 qualification were all successful, having qualified late in the summer term. Well done ladies!



Fruit Sharing

At St John's we want to promote healthy eating

and would ask the children to bring in a piece of fruit once or twice a week, to share with



the other children, then hopefully there will be enough each day to supplement the other healthy foods which we provide.

Treasure Chest

At both settings we have a treasure chest

which is primarily for children to bring in a comforter of some description - ranging from a cuddly toy, an old muslin or any other object that a child has formed a special bond with that will give them comfort if they wobble during the morning. Please make use of this facility if you think your child will benefit from it.



Playgroup Polo-Shirts

St John's Nursery Play-

group polo-shirts are available from Lee Joys. They cost £5.50 for one or £15.00 for three with a 5% commission going to St Johns. If



you are interested, please contact Mrs Mash at Baker Street or Mrs Gnessen at Oakmere. Why not join together and order 3 to get the saving. We have a few second-hand shirts which you can have for a donation of £2.

Parent Information

At both settings we have a Parent Information

Folder with loads of useful information for parents and carers about different facilities and services available in Potters Bar and Hertfordshire. Please make use of these leaflets. We also display information on the notice boards, some from other organisations but mostly information relevant to St John's.

Please keep an eye out for new notices. Also please let us know if you need help to access written information or would like something explained. We are here to help.



Tissues

We are fast approaching the time of year when noses start running and throats start tickling. We would be grateful if every child could give a box of tissues to their setting to help us keep the children's 'noses wiped' as much as possible.



Barnado's Big Toddle

We would like to thank all the families from Baker Street who joined in the Barnados' Big Toddle Sponsored Walk which took place in the Furze field woods and open space late in July. We raised over £400 which is amazing. This was followed by a thoroughly enjoyable picnic and walk in the process.

There were over 100 people in total, with staff children, siblings and parents having a wonderful day out.

Warm & Waterproof Clothing

We are fast approaching the time of year when the weather turns cooler and wetter! As we are committed to promoting outdoor play and many children prefer to play outside whatever the weather we do provide a limited number of waterproof jackets and trousers and wellies.

At Oakmere, we are requesting that children bring with them *named* warm, waterproof outdoor clothing and wellies in a named plastic bag that can be hung on their hook. This will help us to ensure your child/children *can* go outside to play whatever the weather.

At Baker Street, their outdoor clothing, including wellies when wet, will have to be brought in on a daily basis. Please clearly name all children's clothing



Lunch Club

Baker Street runs Lunch Club 5 days a week. If you are eligible for funding and have not used all of your 15 hour free entitlement, then you can add a lunch hour to your session times. However, if you have already used all your 15 hours or aren't eligible for funding, then for £4.00 per day, your child can take up the opportunity of attending one or more of our lunches. Please see Mrs Mash if you are interested.



At Oakmere lunch club is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday's and will open on a Wednesday or Friday once numbers reach 6 or more. There is a form in the cloakroom for parents to record if their child/children would like to attend lunch club on any day or see Mrs Gnessen if you are interested.

Parent Helpers

If you have an hour (or more) to spare and your child has settled at playgroup, we would appreciate your help during the morning by playing and learning with the children - read a book, paint a picture, create with play dough, do a jigsaw puzzle or help the children with role play activities, all of which are of real benefit to the children. Or if you have any skills you would like to share with the children (or staff) like singing, musical instruments, gardening or artwork, then please speak with Mrs Mills at Baker Street or Mrs Gnessen at Oakmere.



Playgroup Stakeholders Meeting

The next Stakeholders meeting will be held on **Wednesday 19th October** at our Baker Street setting (St John's Methodist Church). All parents, carers and interested parties from both settings are invited to attend as we would really appreciate your views, ideas and feedback. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to raise a question or give some feedback, please pass it to your parent representatives. For Oakmere it is Vicky Taylor and at Baker Street, please see Mrs McDonald or Mrs Theodossiou. Toys will be available to keep children occupied during the meeting. We aim to keep the meeting short (30-45 minutes).

Dates for your Diary



BAKER STREET

Children's Centre coffee morning at St John's Thursday 22 Sept 9-10
Tues 11 Oct - Stan Lenman photographer, early siblings welcome from 8.15. See separate letter for more details
24th - 28th Oct Half Term PLAYGROUP CLOSED
Wed 19th Nov - Playgroup Stakeholders Meeting, 1.30 at Baker Street, all welcome.
Dec Nativity Play All children and families invited, (date to be confirmed)
Thurs 15 Dec - Xmas party all children invited
Fri 16 Dec - last day of term **NO LUNCH CLUB**
Mon 19 Dec - 4th Jan Christmas break
3rd+4th Jan - **INSET DAY**, closed for children
Thur 5th Jan - All children return
Fri 6th Jan p.m. - new children start

OAKMERE

Mon 17th Oct - Stan Lenman photographer, early siblings welcome from 8.15. See separate letter for more details
24th - 28th Oct Half Term PLAYGROUP CLOSED
Wed 19th Nov - Playgroup Stakeholders Meeting, 1.30 at Baker Street, all welcome.
Dec - Nativity Play (date tbc)
Fri 16 Dec - Nativity Play in Hall, all children & family members invited, last day of term and **NO LUNCH CLUB**
Mon 19 Dec - 4th Jan Christmas break
Tues 3rd Jan - **INSET DAY**, closed for children
Wed 4th Jan - All children return

