

Playgroup News

SPRING TERM

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Welcome Back

Welcome back after half term. What a strange half term it has been. Lockdown has meant that we have not seen many of our children, but you have not been forgotten.

We would like to welcome some new families who are starting this week, and hope the children have a great time with us.

We have sent all our families who have not been able to join us a Home Learning Pack with lots of activities to keep the children occupied, and have also sent an additional package focusing on e-safety. As we are at home more, we are using screens more and it is important to discuss internet safety with your children from a very early age.

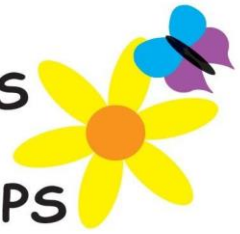
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

As Covid 19 is still a big part of our lives, and we are working hard to keep the setting as covid free as we can, we would ask for your support. Please ensure that everyone dropping off and picking up children wear masks. This protects other families, the children and the staff. Other than the children, the staff are an important part of the nursery. They all have families and with this in mind and to avoid having to close to isolate (which we have had to do once!) we ask parents to consider everyone's needs by wearing a mask.

If you are exempt it is also important that an exemption lanyard is worn so that other parents can see why a mask is not being worn and extra distance should be kept in this case.

We are also asking that where possible that only one adult drops off and picks up, again to ensure safety of everyone. If someone comes with you to drive etc. Please ensure that at this parent contact time that other adults do not come to our gate.

ST JOHN'S NURSERY PLAYGROUPS



St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

Spring 2021

This terms topic

Our role play area has been turned into a kitchen/home corner to play in, so they can take on a role and become a chef for the day and make everyone their favourite meals. The children will have lots of creative activities by making chef hats, cutting and sticking to create their own menus. We will be reading stories and watching programmes on the interactive tv/whiteboard about how people cook around the world and how many jobs there are in a chef's kitchen i.e. sous chef, head chef, kitchen porter etc.

Before half term we celebrated Chinese New Year, a safety day, mental health awareness day and had lots of outdoor fun, especially during the snowy days. We have had some lovely sessions in the woods, jumping in muddy puddles – like Peppa Pig and recreating the Bear Hunt Story.

Lunchboxes

Some parents have asked what sort of things they can put in their child's lunch boxes? As a setting we like to promote healthy eating and we ask that you do **NOT** include chocolate bars, sweets, fizzy drinks or anything that may contain NUTS (including Nutella spread). We also ask that parents name their child's lunch box and any boxes or bottles that may be inside them, that they would like to be returned



We would ask parents please to cut all grapes in half lengthways to avoid any choking hazards, and guidance also suggests avoiding popcorn (this can also cause a choking hazard). If you would like to put a hot meal in a hot pot for your child please feel free as we would like them to enjoy their lunch time experience. If you have any requirements for your child's lunch please come and chat to us.

When we run our lunch club the children wash their hands and are then sit together at a table to eat their lunch. We encourage socialisation by chatting to them when they eat and encourage them to sit at the table until they have finished and stay at the table as long as possible. This can also be reinforced at home by encouraging children to help lay the table, to sit and eat and then to help clear the table. They certainly love helping us set up and clear! It is also a learning experience, working out how many forks, cups, plates etc. we need.

Mobile Phones

Please be aware that as part of the statutory requirements, no staff or parents/visitors should use their mobile phones or cameras whilst on the playgroup premises.

THE PLAYGROUP PREMISES INCLUDES BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE AREAS.

The play group uses a mobile phone to communicate with parents and outside agencies only. We also use a digital camera to take photos of the children to evidence their individual learning for their learning journals. These photos are monitored and managed by the leadership team. Please note you will be asked to refrain from using your phone whilst on the premises. If you have any concerns regarding this ruling please speak with Mrs. Alyson.



Clothing

As the weather is changing, please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Please bring in a jacket/coat so as the children can be warm when playing outside. We do have wellie boots but if you would like to bring your children's own boots please can you put their names inside the boots and put them in a bag for their peg. Please also bring a change of shoes for your child if they arrive in wellies. It can be hard for them to climb and run around so to avoid accidents we will ensure their shoes are changed. In the summer months it is important that children still have sturdy shoes, no open toe sandals, crocs or flip flops again to keep them safe as they play.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES – Trousers, Tops, Pants/knickers, and SOCKS

We do love our messy play at play group and the children enjoy participating and involving themselves within our sensory and mark making experiences. So please can we ask you to bring a change of clothes for your child in a small bag (gym bags are ideal for hanging 'lower' on the peg allowing room for the coat above). Please ensure that your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name. Almost all of the children wear our lovely uniforms now, so by ensuring all of their clothing is labelled, we are able to reduce the confusion of which item belongs to which child at the end of each session. We do not have a lot of spare clothes to change children into and in order to keep covid safe, please ensure that you are providing plenty of changes of clothes including pants and knickers, socks, t shirts, jumpers and trousers. We cannot allow children to stay in wet clothes so if we do not have spares we may have to call you to bring some to us.





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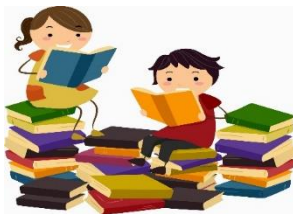
Community Walks

This is a great experience for the children to explore a different environment. We visit Oakmere Park, the woods and the local shop. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to enable them to participate within our walks safely. We will try provide sufficient warning to enable you to be prepared for our outings but sometimes weather permitting we can do impromptu walks so having suitable clothing at nursery helps us when we do this.



Library Books

The library book borrowing scheme is starting in the summer term and we hope your children are keen to borrow a book that you can spend some valuable quiet time reading together with them. Could we ask you to ensure your child's book is returned every week, to enable us to provide them with a new book each week. Your child's key worker will have a specific day each week when they will change their books, if you are not sure of this day please speak with your child's key person or Mrs. Alyson who will be able to assist you.



Song Sharing Scheme

We have a song sharing scheme, providing you with words of songs and nursery rhymes we sing with your child. Everyone will be given a folder and song sheets will be given out throughout the term. We have found with support from their familiar adult at home, children become more confident to participate within circle and music time which helps towards their development.

Notices and requests

Payment of Fees

Cheques should be made payable to
ST JOHN'S METHODIST CHURCH, POTTERS BAR,
please write your child's name on the reverse
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.



Nappies

If your child is wearing nappies, can you please make sure you provide enough nappies and wipes for the sessions they are attending. Please avoid putting pull ups in your child's bag as this takes us a lot longer to change.

Everybody is welcome

We are pleased to welcome families from all different cultures and religions and would love to share your experiences with you. Please let us know how you celebrate as a family. It would be lovely to read some books, or taste some foods (vegetarian only please), or see any clothes you might wear when you celebrate, or you could teach us a dance from YouTube etc.

Buggies and Prams

If you need to leave your prams at playgroup, there is a green plastic shed that is situated outside the main wooden gate where you can leave them at your own risk.

Fruit for snack time

Please can we ask all parents to provide a piece of fruit or vegetable, each week which will be shared with their friends at snack time.

Additionally, we provide carbohydrates such as bread, pita bread, crackers, cheese and a drink of milk or water is also provided.



Illness

Parents are asked to keep their children at home if they have an infection. Please also keep them at home for 48 hours from the last bout of diarrhea and/or vomiting, you must inform the play group as to the nature of the infection/illness. With our new covid rules in place, if your child shows any symptoms while at nursery, we will require you to pick them up immediately and take them for a test. They must stay off until they have a negative result (up to 48 hours – and evidence is sent by email) then your child may return. If a member of your family tests positive your child must also adhere to the rules and isolate for 10 days before returning.

Dates for Your Diary

Term restarts - February 22nd - March 26th.

Easter holidays - 26th March return to playgroup Tuesday 13th April

Summer Term April 13th - July 21st.

**May Bank Holiday - Monday 31st May returning to playgroup Monday 7th June
Term ends Wednesday 21st July 2021**



Facebook

Please find us on Facebook page (black logo – St Johns at Oakmere). We regularly put up pictures of activities that we do at playgroup and have been posting stories read by some of the staff, and special events like snow man building. Please follow and like our page. We love seeing your pictures too, so please share achievements, fun or simply just messages so we can keep in touch.

