

Playgroup News

SUMMER TERM

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Looking to Summer

After a challenging term and we are looking forward to nice weather and lots of outdoor fun. We would like to welcome some new families who are starting in April, and hope the children have a great time with us.

This term we sent all our families who were not able to join us a Home Learning Pack with lots of activities to keep the children occupied, and we 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.

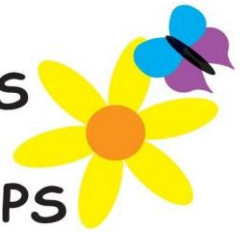
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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 and where possible from the same family, 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

Summer 2021

This terms topic was:

Our role play area was a garden and fruit shop. The children learnt about the environment that surrounds them, and being in the garden to explore different smells, senses and tastes. Growing seeds at nursery will help children understand what good food is, how it grows, and that it tastes delicious. We will be reading stories and watching short videos on the interactive whiteboard on how to plant and what resources we will need. The children will have the chance to plant their own seeds at nursery and over the coming weeks in our garden (with help from one of our Dads) they can watch them grow. The children will be creating some fun art work to support our learning. This will then support the children with our themes of staying healthy outdoors, healthy eating and good dental care. We look forward to having lots of fun and learning.

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 have a child starting with us in April who has a nut allergy so it is important to ensure that the nut free policy is adhered to.** 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. Please ensure that all lunch boxes are cleaned before and after bringing in to ensure as much of a covid free environment as possible.



We would ask parents **please to cut all grapes in quarters 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.

Please avoid bringing drinking bottles for your child except for lunch club, as at the end of a session trying to collect loose bottles not attached to lunch boxes, can be a challenge.

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.



Children's Bags

We suggest leaving bags at nursery everyday to ensure covid safety and we will let you know when they need filling up again.

Clothing

As the weather is changing, please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately. Please bring in a jacket/coat if the weather is cold. When the weather gets better can you please ensure that every child has sun cream on and with them and we will provide an individual hat to keep at nursery so no need to bring one from home. During 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.





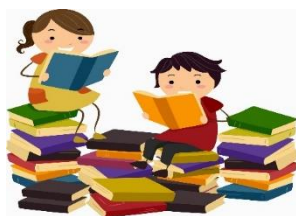
Community Walks

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 will be starting back again in September 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.



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

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 and we can have up to 12 children in nappies and it takes a while to take every child's clothes off to put pull ups on.**

Dates for Your Diary

Photography session - 24th June (was very successful, pictures due back w/c 28th June)

Term ends Friday 16th July 2021

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 and Birthdays

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.

We like to celebrate birthdays with your children and welcome cakes for the child. However there are some children who can only eat food suitable for vegetarians so all food must be suitable and show a V for vegetarian on the packs so that no children are left out of birthday treats.



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.

Autumn Term starts Thursday 2nd September 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.