

Playgroup News

Autumn TERM 2022

Oakmere Mobile: 07760426968

Email: stjohs-oakmere2011@hotmail.co.uk

Welcome back

Now that everyone has settled back into playgroup life, we wanted to welcome back our existing children and provide a warm welcome to all our new children.

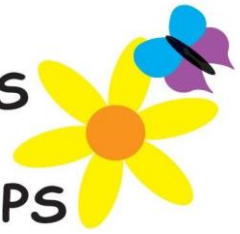
Lunchboxes

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 and a staff member have a severe 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.

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 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.

ST JOHN'S NURSERY PLAYGROUPS



St John's Methodist Church • Oakmere School

Autumn 2022

This terms role play:

Our role play corner represents an under the sea theme, as some of our children have shown an interest in sea creatures. We have also been discussing recycling this term, and showing the children how to separate plastics and paper, and we have looked at some science activities such as m&m sweets changing colours like a rainbow..



We would ask parents **please to cut all grapes, sausages etc in quarters lengthways, to avoid any choking hazards, and guidance also suggests avoiding popcorn and marshmallows (these can also cause a choking hazard).**

Children's Bags

We suggest leaving bags at nursery at the end of each day and we will let you know when they need filling up again. Please label all the bags as many children have the same bags.

Mobile Phones

Please be aware that as part of the Safeguarding 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.

There is also a no photography rule, so parents **MUST** not take photos of their children or anyone else's while on the premises. You will be asked to put your phones away, so please don't be offended if we ask you to.



Clothing

As the weather is changing, please can you ensure your child is dressed appropriately. As the weather gets colder can you please ensure that every child has coats, sturdy shoes, and hats and mittens. **Layers of clothing are preferable as it is easier to take them off to change or if the children feel warm.**

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. **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.

Learning About the Community Around Us

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.



Notices and requests

Payment of Fees

Cash is welcome or Cheques, 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:

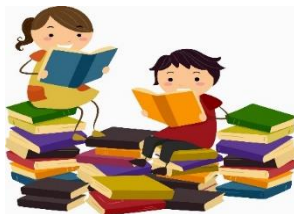
CAF bank St John's Methodist Church Potters Bar
Sort Code: 40 52 40
Account No: 00021445

Please use the name of your child as a reference.



Library Books

The library book borrowing scheme will be starting back again soon. 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 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.



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.**

Toys

We know that children like to bring in toys and other possessions from home, but are recommending, that parents do not allow this. Other children want to have the toys and this causes upset and leads to arguments. The toys may also get broken. We have plenty of toys in nursery, so bringing some from home is unnecessary and can prove a challenge at home time, trying to find lost toys while we are trying to see children home safely.

Celebrating Diversity

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. We would love it if you shared books in your home language and came in and read them to the children. And we would love to taste some foods (vegetarian and NO NUTS, 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 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.

Please do not give your child calpol or similar before nursery. If they are ill enough to need medicine then please keep them at home. Once the medicine wears off the child may well feel unwell and be unhappy at nursery, and we would then ask you to pick your child up. If you send your child in ill other children can become ill, and so can the staff. If staff fall ill then there is a risk of having to close while they recover, so please consider everyone before sending your child in ill.



Facebook

We now have two pages, one is an open page which will feature general playgroup pictures (no children) and announcements, (black logo – St Johns at Oakmere). , the other one St Johns Nursery Playgroup Oakmere private which is only for current families and will feature pictures of your children, and the activities they are taking part in. Please feel free to post pictures of your children only on here to celebrate achievements or fun things they get up to at weekends and holidays. Bear with us while we get this page up and running, and look out for the link on text. We love seeing your pictures too, so please share achievements, fun or simply just messages so we can keep in touch.

Changing Sessions

We understand that there may be occasions when you need to swap a session, but this is not often possible as our numbers are up to capacity. We are not a childminding service and cannot look after your child if you need to go out, have an appointment or anything else. In a real emergency we do try and help where we can. Please bear this in mind when booking appointments.