



Buckingham Playgroup Newsletter

Term dates - 24th February – 3rd April



Welcome back. We hope you have had a lovely half term. Hopefully the weather will start to warm up and we can enjoy Spring and look forward to the Easter holidays.

Session Fee Increase from April 2020

As we are sure you are aware, Buckingham Playgroup is a Committee led Playgroup owned by all the Parents and managed by our staff. We run as a voluntary not-for-profit Charity. We receive our income from fees being paid by parents, Early Years Entitlement Funding from WSCC and fundraising.

To maintain the services and to ensure we continue to provide a fantastic environment for our children, the Committee have made the decision to increase our hourly rates.

From April 2020 we will charge £5.50 per hour for children aged two. Once your child reaches three years old, they will move to the second fee tier which is £5 per hour. Lunch club will also increase to £5.50 per hour for two-year olds and £5 for three-year olds and over. Our Early morning session will increase to £3.50.

Our prices reflect the quality pre-school education your child receives whilst remaining competitive in the local area. If you have any comments or queries about the increase, please speak to Cheryl or Clare or a member of the committee.

Amazon Smile

We are sure many of you use Amazon to do online shopping and we are excited to share with you information about their new scheme for charities called Amazon Smile. By logging into amazon via the following link www.smile.amazon.co.uk Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to a charity of your choice.

On your first visit to www.smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select a charitable organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at www.smile.amazon.co.uk will result in a donation.

The Pre-School is now registered with the scheme and we would greatly appreciate your support by choosing to donate to us. You do not need to change your usual Amazon login details, just simply access your account through this link www.smile.amazon.co.uk and save it as your login page for future purchases.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Here are some important dates for your diary.

Pancake Day - 25th February

We will be making and eating pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.

World Book Week – Monday 2nd March – Friday 6th March

We will be working in conjunction with Usborne Books and organising a sponsored listening event. Please see attached paperwork.

Each morning this week to help with the Sponsored Listen (between 9.00 - 9.30am) we would also like to invite parents/carers/grandparents to come in and read with the children and enjoy their favourite books. Please put your child's name in their book to avoid any mix ups.

If children would also like to dress up as their favourite book character, that would be wonderful!

Yoga with Sarah - Monday 2nd & Friday 13th March

Sarah Grice will be visiting us to do some yoga sessions with the children. It is a well-known fact that by practicing yoga poses, children can learn how to exercise, develop confidence, and concentrate better.

Wednesday 11th March Committee Social evening

The Committee is having a social evening at the Crab Tree (Buckingham Road, Shoreham) at 7.30pm. The playgroup needs new committee members to join us. If you want to get involved and can spare a few hours of your time every half-term in supporting the playgroup and the staff, then please come along to our social evening. If your child is attending playgroup for another year, please think about joining the committee. It's a great way of making important decisions about how playgroup is run and managed and is a fun way of meeting new people and raising vital funds. 40% of the committee can be made up from people in the community who would like to support playgroup – so please pass the word around!

Sports Relief Week 9th – 13th March - We will be fundraising for Sports Relief and will have a collection bucket for any donations you wish to make. The children will be doing various sporting activities for sports relief. It won't be sponsored but we will be giving out certificates.

Progress Review - Friday 13th March (12.15pm - 1.45pm) - Please book a time slot to come and meet with your child's key person. If you are unable to make this date, please talk to your child's key person and they will find a suitable time to meet.

Healthy Eating Week - 16th – 20th March - As part of our Healthy eating week, we are hoping to take the children to Tesco Express, in small groups, throughout the week to buy the fruit and vegetables for our snacks each day. We will look at what they are selling, how much things cost and if they are good for us. This will hopefully encourage lots of talking and sharing of thoughts amongst the children. We will endeavour to take all the children during this week but if this is not possible, we will take any that have not been at some point later in half-term.

Mother's Day - 16th March - 20th March - The children will be preparing something lovely for a Mother's Day Surprise!

My Family Week 23rd March - 27th March - Please can you complete the attached All About Me form for your child for our family week. We will be showing these to our friends during the week and making a display board.

Easter Walks – 30th March – 3rd April - We will be arranging for the children (in small groups) to go on a local Easter Walk, where they will be hunting for hidden Easter chicks. If any parents would like to volunteer to join us, please speak to a member of staff.

Easter Parade & Fundraiser - Friday 3rd April 12.00pm - 2.00pm - To celebrate Easter, we would like the children to take part in an Easter Bonnet Parade. If you could help your child to make an Easter hat/bonnet for the parade it would be wonderful. We plan to hold the parade at 12.00pm and invite parents/grandparents to join in the celebrations. After the parade, we invite you to bring a packed lunch for your child to enjoy with their friends. There will also be a Chocolate tombola and a chance for the children to decorate a picture of an egg. Throughout this week, on the counter, there will be a "guess the number of eggs in the jar" competition, the winner will be announced after the Easter Parade. We would be hugely grateful for any donations of chocolate related gifts for the tombola. See the attached letter.

French Lessons - Tonia from Little Lingos will continue to come in on a Wednesday afternoon this half-term. The children really enjoy these sessions and we have been amazed at how much of the language they have learned.

Reminders

Lateness – Please try not to be late in collecting your child, as this can be upsetting for your child, and this is a busy time when we are clearing up at the end of a day. Obviously, in the event of an emergency, children are always cared for by staff until collection is possible, but please contact Playgroup to let us know that there will be a delay, where possible.

Cash - Please remember we no longer accept cash payment for fees. We do not hold petty cash on the premises. Payment for fees can be made via our preferred method of BACS (account details are on each half-termly invoice).

Early Morning Drop-Off - We offer an Early Birds session each day from 8.30 – 9.00am where children can be dropped off at 8.30am. The cost of this session is £3 (£3.50 from April). You can also use your Free Entitlement hours during the Early Drop-Off session.

Safety - Please remember to keep the main gate closed when entering and leaving playgroup. If a member of staff is in the playground, please leave it to them to open/close so all children remain safe.

Please ensure you are watching your children whilst waiting to come into playgroup. Until the children have been signed in and dropped off at playgroup, they are your responsibility. Please make sure that the gate is shut, and your children do not run off. The road is very busy.

Absences/Holidays - If your child will be absent from playgroup please can you text/ring on the day or email (if you know in advance) to let us know, stating the reason why they will be absent. It is an Ofsted requirement that we record any absences from playgroup.

Clothing and belongings - We would be grateful if you could name all coats, uniform, lunch boxes, drink bottles and bags.

Calpol -Please note children should not attend Playgroup within 4 hours of being given PARACETAMOL OR ASPIRIN. This could mask all sorts of serious illness and if a child needs medication, they are probably too unwell to attend playgroup. Should your child develop a high temperature at playgroup (that doesn't go down after cooling etc...) we will telephone you to collect him/her and ask you, if would like us to administer Calpol whilst you are on en route. This will be on the understanding that you will be picking your child up within the hour. Calpol will only be given with verbal consent and parents/carers will be asked how much, 2.5ml or 5ml and a form will be signed by the parent/carer to acknowledge this on arrival.

Uniform - We have a stock of t-shirts, sweatshirts and sunhats in the playroom. The cost of these are: T Shirts & Sun Hats £5/Sweatshirts £9. Uniform must be paid for before it is taken off the premises.

The last day of term is Friday 3rd April and we return on Monday 20th April.

Cheryl and the team

Don't forget to "like" our Buckingham Playgroup Facebook page!