



## Buckingham Playgroup Newsletter

### Term dates – 6th January - 14th February



Happy New Year to you all. We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break and the New Year celebrations.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the fundraising events last term. We raised just over £300 which will go towards resources for the playgroup.

**Matched Funding** - The playgroup relies heavily on fundraising to purchase new equipment and generally keep the Playgroup running. Following on from our Christmas Carol Concert Fundraiser we were very lucky that one of our supporters could offer us Match Funding through their employer. This has allowed us to double the money raised at the Carol concert which is fantastic for the Playgroup. If any Parents or Carers work for a company who are willing and able to contribute in a similar principal or indeed able to assist in any way, then this would be greatly welcomed. Please speak to a member of Playgroup staff or a member of the Committee if you can help.

Don't forget we have been selected by Co-op as a one of their charities for the Local Community Fund for the next 12 months (27 October 2019 - 24 October 2020). If you are a Co-op member, you can choose Buckingham Playgroup through your online account so we will receive 1% every time you buy selected own-branded products. If you are not a member, all you need to do is sign up for Co-op membership and then choose Buckingham Playgroup as your cause for the next year. If you already have a card, just go online and select us as your local cause.

To get us ready for the launch, please can all our supporters, volunteers, friends and family become Co-op Members. You can join online at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>.

For more info: <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-causes>

We are very grateful for your support and thank you in advance!

Thank you also for the lovely Christmas cards and presents given to the staff. Your support is always most appreciated.

This term we welcome Arabella, Rocco, Sylvia, and Tommy to our playgroup.

Please make a note of the following dates:

**French** - Every Wednesday afternoon, this term, Tonia from Little Lingos will continue to work with small groups of children, teaching them French. The children really enjoy this.

**Bertie the Travelling Playgroup Bear** - We have a playgroup teddy bear who likes to go home with the children and find out what they like to do outside of playgroup. There is a bear diary to record the visit which we share with the children on return to playgroup.

**Reptylers 22<sup>nd</sup> January (10 – 11.00am)** - will be coming to visit and show us some of their animals. There will be lots to chat about with the children after this session so don't forget to ask them all about it. Children whom do not normally attend on a Wednesday are welcome to come along if accompanied by an adult. The cost will be £5 for the 60 min session.

**Chinese New Year – 27th – 31<sup>st</sup> Jan** - The start of the Chinese New Year is 25th January (Year of the Rat). The children will be celebrating this colourful festival and will be doing a variety of crafts and activities to celebrate during this week. We would like to celebrate this by having some Chinese style snacks and if anyone has any authentic costumes, they are more than welcome to wear them.

**Valentine's Week - 10th - 14th Feb** - To celebrate Valentine's Day, we will be dressing in as much red or pink as you dare to wear! During this week there will be various activities based around the colour red. The children will have an opportunity to make and decorate a Valentines Card and post to their home address. They will be walking to the post box to post their own cards. We will be walking to the post box in Middle Road – please look out for more information nearer the time. If you do not wish your child to participate please let us know.

## Reminders

**Parents applying for a school place September 2020** - If your child is eligible to start school in September 2020 you must apply online at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions). Free internet access to apply for a school place is available in all West Sussex libraries and Children and Family Centres for parents who do not have access to the internet. The deadline for receipt of all applications is **Wednesday 15th January 2020**. Any application received after the deadline will be deemed late and will not be processed until after all prompt applications have been considered.

**Reviews on Facebook** - Please give our Facebook page a "like" and leave us a review!

[www.facebook.com/buckinghamplaygroup](http://www.facebook.com/buckinghamplaygroup)

**Keeping safe** - We will be holding a fire evacuation drill towards the end of the month (exact date to be confirmed.) On a designated signal the children and staff will evacuate the building and walk round to the school next door.

**Weather** - If there should be a heavy snowfall and the playgroup must close, we will notify you by text by 8.30am. If the children are at playgroup and it starts to snow heavily, we will also contact you.

**Illness** - Please remember that children should not attend playgroup if they are unwell, no matter how much they wish to come. It is essential that children do not attend playgroup if they are sick and within 4 hours of being given PARACETAMOL OR ASPIRIN. This could mask all sorts of serious illness.

Should your child develop a high temperature at playgroup (that does not go down after cooling) we will telephone you to pick them up and administer Calpol (if agreed). This will be on the understanding that you will be picking them up within the hour. Calpol will only be given with verbal consent and parents will be asked how much, 2.5ml or 5ml and a form signed by the parent/carer to acknowledge this on arrival.

Sickness / Diarrhoea - Children should not return until 48 hours after their last symptoms.

**Outside Play** - Please ensure your child brings a suitable coat to every playgroup session. Unless there are howling gales or blizzards the children will take part in activities outside!

**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.

**Label Clothing** - Please, please ensure that all coats, bags, hats, scarves etc have your child's name on them.

**Uniform** - We have a stock of t-shirts, sweatshirts and sunhats in the playroom. The cost of these are as follows, T-Shirts & Sun Hats £5 & Sweatshirts £9.

**Committee** - Buckingham Playgroup is a charity and is run behind the scenes by a committee of parent/carers volunteers. We always need new members, even if those with only a little time to spare. Please consider helping the playgroup and join the committee. Please talk to any member of staff or contact our Chair, Lucy Armfield through the playgroup email [buckingham.playgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:buckingham.playgroup@yahoo.com).

**Tell Us What You Did Form** - We love listening to your child's news. Last term the children stood up at circle time and shared their news with their friends - very brave! If your child has any news they would like to share with the group, please can you complete a form.

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

We hope you all enjoy the half- term.

Cheryl Lansley and the Team

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