



## Buckingham Playgroup

September Newsletter 3rd Sept – 25th Oct 2019



Welcome to the new Autumn term. We hope you all enjoyed your summer holidays and we look forward to working with you this year. The playgroup is excited to welcome new and existing members of staff, children, committee and parents & carers.

### **New Starters**

A big hello and welcome to all the new children who will be joining us this term:  
Delilah, Erin, Fabian, Grace and Jaxson, Lucas

**Parents/Grandparents with talents/interesting stories** - We would like to invite parents with particular talents or skills for example doctors, vets or police to come and share their knowledge with us in playgroup. Or if there are any Grandparents who have any great stories to tell or if you are interested in arts and crafts or cooking we would love for you to come in and take an activity. Please speak to Cheryl for more information.

**Tell Us What You Did Form** - We love listening to your child's news. If they have any news they would like to share with the group, please can you complete the attached form.

**Fruit and Vegetables** - At playschool we really enjoy sharing fruit and vegetables during snack time. We would very much like to involve you in being able to share in our healthy eating. We would love it when you go shopping that you allow your child to choose a piece of fruit or vegetable to bring in to playgroup for us to share together. If you could send your child in with a piece of fruit or vegetable we would be very grateful.

### **Dates for your diary:**

**Monday 2nd September** - 'Settling-in morning' for new children only 9.30am – 11.30am

**Tuesday 3rd September** – Normal sessions commence

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September** - We will be holding a practice fire drill (weather permitting). The children will be evacuated from the building and taken to the school next door where they will be registered and then returned to the scout hall. This usually takes about 10 minutes.

**Week commencing 23rd September – Harvest Festival Week** - We will be collecting tinned and packaged goods to donate to a local homeless project. On Friday 27th September, we are hoping that a representative of the group will come and collect the harvest donation and join in with us for some singing and stories with children who normally attend on this day.

**Monday 14th – Fri 18th October** – We will be arranging for the children to go on local Autumn Walks in small groups. If any parents/carers would like to volunteer to join us, please speak to a member of staff.

**Mon 28th October - Fri 1<sup>st</sup> November- HALF TERM**

### **Visitors**

**French** - Each Wednesday, this half-term, Tonia, our French teacher, from Little Lingos will be continuing to work with small groups of children, teaching them French. The children really enjoy this.

### **Reminders**

**CASH** - We no longer accept cash payments for fees. All fees must be paid online, (bank details on your invoice, childcare vouchers or by cheque. You can still pay for ad-hoc sessions, lunch club or uniform by cash providing you have the correct money as we do not hold cash on the premises.

### **Keeping Healthy**

Our daily snack menu is flexible and subject to seasonal variations. Please inform us of any allergies your child may have. At playgroup we encourage healthy eating, so would ask you to join us by providing your child with a healthy balanced packed lunch. Please ensure that no foods containing nuts are included in your child's lunch box.

**Illness** - Please remember that children should not attend playgroup if they are unwell, no matter how much they wish to come. Children should not attend playgroup 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 doesn't go down after cooling etc) we will telephone you to collect your child and ask if you would like us to administer Calpol whilst you are on your way to collect. 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 will be asked how much, 2.5ml or 5ml and a form will be signed by the parent/carer to acknowledge this on arrival.

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

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

### **Sun Safety**

We may have some hot weather this half-term and the children need to be protected outside. Can you REMEMBER to apply sunscreen to your child before they start a session and provide a named filled water bottle and sun hat.

### **Fees**

Our fees are £5.00 per hour for children aged two. Once your child reaches three years old they will move to the second fee tier which is £4.50 per hour. Lunch club is £5.00 per hour for two year olds and £4.50 for three year olds and over.

### **Early Morning Starts**

We will 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 will be £3. If your child is funded and you are claiming less than 15 hours, you can add an extra half hour to the morning session which would allow your child to stay from 8.30am to 12pm or 8.30am to 3.00pm – 3 or 6 hours free entitlement + 0.5 hour for early morning = 3.5 or 6.5 hours per day.

### **Lunch Club**

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday we offer a 1 hour lunch club from 12.00pm-1.00pm.

If your child is funded and you are claiming less than 15 hours, you can add an extra hour to the morning session which would allow your child to stay for the lunch hour e.g. 12 hours free entitlement + 1 extra hour for lunch = 13 hours.

Please email at Clare at [buckingham.playgroup@yahoo.com](mailto:buckingham.playgroup@yahoo.com) if you wish to book a lunch club session.

### **Parents applying for a school place September 2020**

If your child is due to start school in September 2020, you can apply online via WSCC website from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 until Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020. West Sussex County Council no longer issue paper application forms but should send a leaflet to parents/carers explaining how to apply online and a letter with the name of your child's catchment school. If you do not have internet access at home you will be able to apply on-line at libraries or Children and Family centres for free. If you are unable to apply online you can request a form by phoning 03330 142903.

It is a **parent's responsibility** to apply for a school place for their child, even if they don't receive a personalised letter or their child attends an early year's provision attached to the school or has a brother or sister already at the school. If you have not received any information from West Sussex County Council by the end of October we would suggest you contact them.

### **Clothing**

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.

### **Key workers**

We have 5 members of staff who 'key work' for the children. If you do not know who is responsible for your child please look on the boards as you enter the playroom. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to talk to a member of staff.

### **Staff and Committee news**

For those of you who are new to the playgroup, our committee work closely with the staff to ensure the smooth running of the playgroup. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please talk to a member of staff.

A very big thank you to the committee parents who organised the Arts celebration. It was a very special occasion and it was lovely to see so many parents, grandparents and children present. We raised an amazing £275 which will be spent on new activities and resources for the children.

Here is an update of staff and committee members for this year:

<b>Committee</b>		<b>Staff</b>	
Chair	Lucy Armfield	Senior Lead Practitioner	Cheryl Lansley
Secretary	Tara Lewis	Admin Manager	Clare Lewis
Treasurer	Holly Price	Senior Supervisor	Lorrie McKelvey
General Member	Cheryl Lansley	Supervisor & SENCO	Michelle Jackson
General Member	Clare Lewis	EYFS Practitioners	Maria Alderson
General Member	Michelle Jackson		Sophie Blackband
			Terry Dyett

			Sara Rose
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**Contact Details**

Please can you notify us if your contact details have changed since registering your child at Playgroup. It is very important that our contact details are kept up to date.

**Contacting the Playgroup**

Our email address is: buckingham.playgroup@yahoo.com and the playgroup telephone number is 07772 122016. Please note calls and messages will only be answered/checked during playgroup hours from 8am.

We look forward to working and playing together this year.

*From all the team at Buckingham Playgroup*

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