



St Joseph's Pre-School Playgroup

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Newsletter Christmas 2009

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Pledge your support TODAY for the Christmas fayre!

We urgently need volunteers to help out at the Christmas fayre on Sunday 29th November. Please sign up TODAY!

Welcome to new staff members:

Jo James was an active member of the committee when her daughters (who are now in Years 3 and 5 at St Joseph's school) attended Playgroup, and before that she ran St Joseph's parent toddler group. Jo is a qualified nanny. Many of you will know Jo from the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's church, where she is a member of the children's liturgy team.

Tanya Ferma is mum to Luca (who currently attends morning sessions at Playgroup) and also has two daughters in Years 2 and 5 at St Joseph's school. Over the past year Tanya has been an enthusiastic and dedicated member of the committee fundraising team, and she is currently working hard on preparations for the Christmas fayre.

The half term theme is: *Night time*

At the start of this term we found out about Diwali and how people had put little lights called divas in their windows to show Rama and Sita the way home from the jungle where they had been banished. People who celebrate diwali often have fireworks which we linked to our own experiences of bonfire night.

The aliens have invaded the playgroup!

As part of looking at Space we read the story 'Here Come The Aliens!' by Colin McNaughton. The children's imaginations have really been fired up by the story and they have had a wonderful time making a host of aliens of all different shapes, textures and sizes. They have also been making different planets using a variety of materials and painting techniques; having looked at pictures of the planets first.

The children have also had the opportunity to go for a WET walk and splash in puddles. Some of the puddles were very deep and the water went over the top of our boots! The children wore our new splash proof trousers and tops, which we were able to buy through an Early Years grant, enabling us to have fun in all weather!

In the next few weeks we shall be busy preparing for Christmas; making decorations, singing songs and thinking about baby Jesus who was born at Christmas.

Other dates for your diary:

29th November:
Christmas Fayre

16th December: Nativity Play (am children only)

17th December: Christmas Party (pm children only)

18th December: Christmas Party (am children only)
Playgroup closes for Christmas holidays

The nativity

The nativity is on Wednesday 16th December at 10.45am. All family and friends are welcome. A letter giving more details will be going out to all parents.

Film-makers your playgroup needs you!

This year the nativity will be filmed by playgroup to avoid the children being distracted by a large number of cameras. We are looking for a keen film-maker to volunteer to take on this role. Please contact any member of the playgroup staff if you are interested. A DVD of the nativity will be available for parents to purchase.

E newsletter

St Joseph's Pre-School Playgroup newsletter is available as an email. To make sure you receive your copy, please send your email address to:

subscribe@stjosephsplaygroup.co.uk

Also, if you would like to advertise in, or sponsor, a newsletter please send your details to the above address.

Water bottles

Can parents please be aware that water bottles should only contain water – and not squash or juice. Water bottles should also carry your child's names. Can we also remind parents to collect their child's water bottle at the end of the session.

Thank you.

That's mine

Children will be outside this term in all but unsafe weather so can we ask that they have the right clothing with them, i.e. rain coat, wellies etc. Please could all parents also make sure that coats and other belongings are **clearly named** as it saves a great deal of time.

Thank you.

Term dates 2009/10

Autumn term

7th September – 18th December

Spring term

4th January – 26th March

Half term

15th February – 19th February

Summer term

19th April – 16th July

Half term

31st May – 4th June

From the fundraising team

Playgroup Christmas fayre 2009

Preparations have been under way for this year's Christmas fayre since the beginning of the autumn term. This event takes place on **Sunday 29th November** in the Parish Centre, directly after 10.30am Mass.

The Christmas fayre is the most important fundraising event in the playgroup's calendar and we would ask everyone to take part – whether it be running a stall, donating toys for the toy stall, baking/providing cakes for the cake stall, helping to clean up or just coming along and spending lots of money!

Thank you so much for all your donations so far. It is not too late to drop off your chocolates and bottle donations, if you have not already done so. This week the fundraising team are collecting donations with a Christmas feel for our Christmas gift tombola – crackers, cards, decorations, etc.

Parents can sign up **now** to help run a stall at the Christmas fayre. **Please see the rota in the playgroup foyer.** We would ask that you please give as much time as you can to the day to help make it a success. Please can all parents also display the Christmas fayre flyer in your car window and/or any other suitable place in order to advertise the fayre.

Please sign up today to pledge your help and support for the Christmas fayre.

Donation requests

The fundraising team would ask that all parents look out for donation requests. Information on fundraising activities will come to parents via letters and notices on the notice board. The playgroup relies on the funds produced by the fundraising team so we would ask you to please get involved and give generously where possible. To find out how you can help, please contact Tina Osman or a member of the fundraising team.

Thank you for your continuing support from all of the fundraising team

Committee meeting dates 2009/10

Wednesday 2 December 2009

Monday 4 January 2010

Thursday 4 February

Monday 1 March 2010

Tuesday 4 May 2010

Monday 7 June 2010

Please note that all parents are welcome to attend the meetings. Committee meetings are usually held in the playgroup.

AGM 2010

Monday 28 June 2010

Lost property

Can we ask that all parents check the lost property box before the end of term. Anything left after this date will be donated to charity. Parents should check the box regularly.

Thank you.

Forthcoming themes

Spring term

Jungles, Chinese New Year, myself and Easter

Summer term

Mini beasts, Pesach and water