



St Joseph's Pre-School Playgroup

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Newsletter Summer term 2010

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Welcome to the following children:

Eni Folaranmi
Shreya Kirubakaran
Adrian Vasquez-kowalczyk
Harry Wilson
Aoife Wilson
Clayton Blackburn
Alicia Wood
Freya Walesby
William Muir
Erin Butler

Playgroup term dates 2010/2011

Summer term 2010

19th April – 16th July

Autumn term 2010

6th September – 17th December
(new starters 14th September)

Half term

25th October – 29th October

Spring term 2011

10th January – 8th April

Half term

21st February – 25th February

Summer term 2011

26th April – 22nd July

Half term

30th May – 3rd June

The half term theme is:

Water

We will be looking at what will sink and what will float, and finding out how many items we can put on a 'boat' before it sinks! The children will also be exploring a variety of utensils in the water tray. Each child will get the opportunity to make a boat and see if it floats. The older children will have the opportunity to use our woodwork tools to do this.

As the term continues the children will be looking at different patterns through a story: 'Hooray for Fish'; and the concept of sharing by reading: 'The Rainbow Fish', and much, much more!

Caterpillars

We are looking after some caterpillars, which arrived just before half term. We are hoping to see how they develop into butterflies – we will let you know

Outside Play area

We were lucky enough to receive a grant from Surrey Early Years to improve our outside area. So far we have a lovely green shed for storage, and our fence is being extended slightly to house a digging area, planter and sandpit. We have also received a maths "grab and go" box, Den frame and construction role-play set for all our budding architects and builders.

We are sure the children will enjoy these new additions to their outside play.

Dates for your diary

9th July: Playgroup Mass

15th July: Sports day
(morning children)

15th July: Teddy bears picnic
(afternoon children)
12.45pm - 2.45pm

16th July: Princess and pirate party
(morning children) 10am - 12noon

Block play

Playgroup was recently given a set of large blocks from Surrey Early Years. Having held a staff training session on implementing block play, which culminated in staff making a "Scooby Doo Machine" (of which we were very proud!), we completed a risk assessment and demonstrated to the children how to use the blocks safely. They are now in full use.

So far the children have made: a railway, complete with buffers and a platform; a house draped with sparkly material; stepping-stones and bridges. We would be grateful for any architectural drawings you may be able to donate for the children to recreate using the blocks.

Thank you

E newsletter

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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 – 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 each session.

Thank you

That's mine

Please could all parents make sure that sun hats and other belongings are **clearly named**, as it saves a great deal of time. Can we ask that all parents also check the lost property box on a regular basis.

Thank you

Thank you from Miranda

A huge thank you to all of those who sponsored the Merstham Bike Buddies on our London to Brighton cycle on 9th May. We managed it in 6hrs 20 minutes and raised approximately £500 for DELTA (Deaf Education through Listening and Talking) www.deafeducation.org.uk

Should anyone else wish to make a donation please visit www.justgiving.com/mersthambikebuddies. Many thanks for all your support.

From the fundraising team

Nearly new sale 10th July 2010

Playgroup will be holding a nearly new sale on **July 10th** at 10am in the Parish Hall, entry £1.00. If you have baby or toddler clothes, toys or equipment that you would like to sell make sure you book your place early! A table costs £10.00, it is £7.00 to bring your own clothes' rail or £2.00 to sell your items on the stage. To book your place, or to find out more, contact Suzanne Jackson on (07791 417158) or Ang Steadman on (07941 273058).

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.

Change of clothes

Because this term's theme is water the children will get wet (although aprons are provided!). So, we would ask that you please send in a change of clothes.

While on the subject of clothes, we have no girls' underwear left. So please could we ask that you look at home and see if any has found their way into your washing pile! We would also be very grateful if you have any underwear that your child has outgrown that you could donate to playgroup.

Thank you

AGM 2010

Monday 28 June 2010, 8pm.
All parents are welcome.

Sun Protection

Please ensure that you apply sun lotion to your child before they come to playgroup, as we will be going outside. If you are happy for us to apply sun lotion, as necessary, please provide us with a short letter confirming this. Please can you also ensure that your child has a sun hat. However, we do have spare hats if they have forgotten theirs.

Thank you

Committee positions vacant

A new Committee will take over in September 2010, and there are still some positions vacant. The Committee is looking for a co-chair to share the chair's role. This is an important and very rewarding role. The Committee is also looking for a volunteer to take on the role of general helper to the Committee. This role will take on a variety of duties assisting all members of the committee.

If you would like more information on the roles, or you would like to volunteer, please contact Karen Davitt or Sara McGinley.

Help needed!

The Committee would like to create a new team to assist with catering playgroups' many events and activities. The team would be responsible for co-ordinating the work of volunteers already in place who prepare the food and drink. If you would like more information on the roles, or to volunteer, please contact Karen Davitt or Sara McGinley.