

**Bathampton Preschool Playgroup**

**Term 3 2023**

We hope that you have all enjoyed a restful Christmas break and that the children are all ready to come back to playgroup. Just to remind you all this term is a six week term and begins on **Tuesday 3rd January** when we will be welcoming Theodore and his family to Playgroup. We look forward to getting to know them and extend them all a very warm welcome.

**Key person and Learning Journeys**

For those of you new to Playgroup all the children have a key person. We have information to give out to new parents (and existing if you would like) on the role of the key person. We also have an **All About Me** document for new parents to fill out about their child which we will give you when your child starts.

Last term we completed the latest summative assessment forms for your children. These are now in the children’s learning journeys along with up to date observations and photos. We will send the books home with the children at the beginning of term for you to see and will make time in the week commencing 16th January for you to come in and talk to your child’s key person if you wish to do so about your child’s development and their time at Playgroup. I will put up a sign up sheet for you if you wish to come in.

The **topics** this term will be:

**Winter and Chinese New Year**

We will, as I mentioned at the end of last term, be going to see a performance of The Snow Mouse at the Egg Theatre on Tuesday 10th January. Drop off on this day will be at the Egg at 9.00-9.10 and you will need to pick your child up afterwards at 10.15 and drop them back to the village hall. I will send a letter home this week that you will need to return.

**Snack and Lunch**

We are this term going to go back to our shared snack which is how we did things before the pandemic so please can your child bring in one piece of fruit which we will cut up and share out. This means the children get a variety of fruit which will be supplemented by a healthy carbohydrate by Playgroup. C**an I remind you that we are a nut free setting.**

May we also remind parents that chocolate is not suitable for lunchboxes at Playgroup. We ask for a healthy packed lunch and appreciate your support in this. We would be happy to help with ideas for your child’s lunch box so if you would like to talk to us about this then please ask.

**Safeguarding**

**Absences and pick up**

Please can we remind you all that if your child is absent for any reason we do need to know. This is for safeguarding purposes so please either ring or send a text to the Playgroup phone 07716600269 or email us to let us know that your child will not be in Playgroup. If we do not hear we will contact you to see why your child is not with us.

Something else we need to know is if someone other than yourselves or those mentioned on the registration form will be picking up your child. This is again for safeguarding reasons and if we do not know then we will not be able to hand your child over.

Can we please ask that all parents use the Playgroup phone to communicate with us about Playgroup not staff members personal phones.

**Children starting school in September**

We will be carrying on with our special learning sessions for our pre-school children to help prepare them for starting school. These are short sessions and focus on letters and sounds involving stories, singing, rhymes and games. We also practice things like putting on shoes and coats and lining up.

If your child is due to start school in September 2023 then please be aware that the deadline for applying for a school place is the 15th January. If you need any more information about this then please ask.

**Funding**

The Government provides a free entitlement for all 3 and 4 year olds to attend an early years provider, starting the term after their 3rd birthday. All children are entitled to 15 hours funded childcare and children from working families are entitled to 30 hours funded childcare. If your child is eligible to receive their funded hours (that is, if their 3rd birthday fell between 1st September and 31st December 2022) then I will be filling in the online form for your child. I will need to see your child’s birth certificate if I have not already seen it. I will check this week and let you know if I need you to bring it in as we will not be able to claim the funding if I have not seen their birth certificate. If your child is already in receipt of their funding and you wish to change their hours please let me know and I will adjust them on our claim form. As I mentioned last term banes have got stricter about the times you can change hours so if you do wish to make an adjustment it will need to be from the beginning of the term. If your child is not yet eligible for their funding then you will receive a bill for the hours they attend from our new Treasurer Becks. We also accept the 2 year funding if you are entitled to it. Again I will need to see your child’s birth certificate when they start to be able to claim this funding.

I have also attached with this email information about the Early Years Pupil Premium (this is additional funding your child may be entitled to). If you think that your child may qualify for this then please let me know.

**Toys from home**

We have noticed that, more and more, toys from home are being bought into Playgroup. These are ever so difficult to keep track of and can cause problems with sharing and prevent your child getting involved in the activities we plan for them at Playgroup. Of course if your child needs a comforting toy from home whilst they are settling into Playgroup they are welcome to bring these in but we will ask for these to be left in their bag so we can get them if and when they are needed.

**Cold weather**

Please could you ensure that you send your child in with suitable clothing for the cold weather, particularly a warm coat and hats and gloves (all named please) for outdoor play. We do like to go out in all weathers (almost) and it is miserable for the children if they are cold. A pair of named wellington boots that could be brought in each session (or even better left at playgroup) is essential. Can we also ask that your child brings in waterproof trousers if they have them as the garden gets very muddy at this time of year. Pease can you all check the spare clothes you keep in your child’s bag and make sure there is enough in it for them. It is worth at this time of year when it is wet and muddy outside keeping a couple of changes of clothes in them.

Please remember that the church next door kindly allows parents to use their space to park their cars at drop off and pick up time but please note this is for these times only. If you are going to the park after playgroup or the shops or walking down to the school etc. you must move your car out of their car park.

Thank you for your patience and your continued support. We look forward to seeing you all this week.

Lisa