



WATERBEACH TODDLER PLAYGROUP
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Welcome!



Welcome to the Spring Edition of our newsletter. We hope that you all had an exciting and full filled Christmas break and are ready and refreshed for the new year. We extend a warm welcome to all our new parents, carers and children. Please let us know if you require further information on any aspect of the information contained in the newsletter or daily routines and procedures.

Firstly, a big thank you to all who helped in various ways throughout last term. We are most grateful for all your assistance on the parent rota, donations, fundraising, snack donations, contributions of recyclable material... the list is endless; Please be assured that your continuing support is most gratefully appreciated.

We had a very busy Autumn term which saw the Rising 5 children participating in the Christmas performance for Hatley Court and their parents/carers at the end of term, and all of them did really well with their singing and acting out the story. The children enjoyed taking part in various activities throughout the term, including a visit from the police, looking at various different animal habitats, Diwali, transport and Bon Fire Night to name a few.

Fundraising Activities

During the Autumn Term the committee were busy organising the Nearly New Sale, which was held at Tillage Hall this time. Thank you to everyone for your help and support at this event, we raised a fantastic £627.00

The children also helped with the fundraising efforts, taking part in the Autumn Sponsored Search over the October half term. This raised £386.00 – a big thank you for helping them with this!

The children enjoyed their disco at the end of term. The fun event helped to bring in £78.00.

Our clothing bank outside playgroup has continued to help us to raise funds too. Please share that we have this bank available, not just for playgroup parents, but for friends and family. Over the last term this has raised £151.00.

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported all of our fundraising efforts, not just last term, but throughout the last year. Fundraising is a crucial part of playgroup life, and without your help we wouldn't be able to provide the safe and stimulating environment and curriculum that we do, so a big THANK YOU to you all.

Welcome to Di!

We have a new playgroup assistant at playgroup. We would like to welcome Di Hurst to the team. Di was a member of our committee for the last 2 years, so has lots of experience of WTP. We hope you'll give her a warm welcome as she starts in her new role.

Planning Board

Keep up to date with the weekly planning by looking at the 'Parent/Carer Communication Board' near the kitchen door. This will have the theme for the week, the activities that we will be doing with the children throughout the week and most importantly which letter sound we will be focussing on with the Rising 5 children. This will change each week, so make sure you check at the beginning of the week to see which letter we are up to. This will be forming some of the focussed work we will be doing with them in the afternoon sessions. Also on their will be the focus for the Advancing 4 children. Please help us by reinforcing the sounds at home and when you are out and about. Other things we will be focussing on will be number recognition, days of the week, months of the year and also shapes as the year progresses.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This Term *Show and Tell* will be on Monday afternoon and Thursday morning

TERM OPENS

Wednesday 4th January

HALF TERM

Playgroup will close at end of session on
Friday 10th February 2017
 starting back on
Monday 20th February 2017

AUTUMN TERM CLOSURES ON

TUESDAY 20th DECEMBER 2016

FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

RACE NIGHT

Friday 3rd February

This will be a joint fundraising event with Waterbeach Community Playgroup at Beach Social Club, 7.30pm for 8.00pm start, £1 entry per person.

AUCTION OF PROMISES

This popular event is back! If you have anything you feel you could offer as a lot to be auctioned off on the night, please come and speak to a member of staff or the committee.

(More details to follow closer to the time)

Development Records – Your child’s Learning and Development Records will be sent out towards the end of each term. If you wish to discuss your child’s progress or you have any concerns please speak to your child’s key person who will make a mutually agreeable time to discuss any issues you may have. We have a board in the craft room, the ‘Parent/Carer Communication Board’. Please use this for notes and any observations you may have for your child. Please place these in the relevant folder for your child’s Key Person. The home sticker observations will give us a more holistic record of your child’s development through these important early years. You can access your child’s records file at any time, to see what they have been up to at playgroup. Please be aware that staff keep these as up dated as possible, but we are sure you can appreciate it isn’t always possible to do this every day. We have a deputy key person system at playgroup, so that each child has a named adult for when their usual Key Worker is absent, this is as follows-

Main Key Person	Days when not at the setting	‘Deputy Key Person’ in their absence
Patricia Palmer	Monday, Thursday and Friday	Wayne Badcock/ Laura Manzur
Laura Manzur	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday	Wayne Badcock/ Patricia Palmer
Gina Clark	Tuesday am and Wednesday pm	Wayne Badcock
Lesley Moxon	Friday	Wayne Badcock

Stay and Play’ – There is rota on the notice board next to the kitchen. It would be much appreciated if you, an aunt or grandparent have any time to spare to help out in one of our sessions. If every family put one name up each half term, then the rota would soon fill up! So please consider this when your child asks you to come in, it’s great fun and I’m sure you would want to come back again. Unfortunately due to insurance cover, we are unable to allow you to bring younger siblings with you when you come in to help. Thank you for your co-operation! We understand that this is not feasible for some and there are many other ways that you can assist us in the day to day running of the Playgroup. Offers of help, paper, baking cakes for fundraising ventures (and staff ☺) are always appreciated.

Snack Menu – We will continue to operate a snack time area where the children can see at a glance what will be for snack that day and throughout the week. We will be encouraging the children to help prepare and serve their own snack.

Lunch Boxes – We have a member of staff who has a nut allergy. Please can we ask you to not put any nuts or nut products in your child’s sandwiches or lunchboxes. Thank you for your co-operation in advance.



Toys from Home - We are aware that some children have special toys/ blankets they cannot bare to be parted from and, as long as the child is happy, these things are welcome to join your child at playgroup. We would ask that other toys be kept at home to avoid them getting lost or broken.

Illness - A reminder that if your child has diarrhoea or sickness then we ask that you keep them at home for **48 hours clear after the last bout of illness**. Please telephone us if your child is ill in any way so we can maintain our registers correctly.

Please feel free to talk to us if you have any worries or concerns about your child; or if there has been a change in home circumstances. This information will be treated in the strictest confidence and will enable us to help you and your child through these periods.

Head Lice are a nuisance and spreads very quickly. It is important you let us know if your child has Head Lice and we advise that you check their hair regularly. If children appear unwell during the day – have a temperature, sickness, diarrhoea or pains, particularly in the head or stomach – you will be called and asked to collect the child, or send a known carer to collect on your behalf. Parents are asked to take their child to the doctor before returning them to the setting; the setting can refuse admittance to children who have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or a contagious infection or disease. **Where children have been prescribed antibiotics, parents are asked to keep them at home for 48 hours before returning to the setting.**

Timings of Sessions - The guidance for Sessional Care that we are issued with from the Department for Education clearly states that 'There must be a break between sessions with no children in the care of the provider'. This means that we have to have a break between the morning and afternoon sessions on a Monday and Wednesday (11.30 - 12.00 noon) without any children in the playgroup building. Of course there will be times when this is not possible and we are quite flexible but we do ask that you observe the timings of sessions as much as possible ~ this then gives us the time to clear up between sessions and prepare for the next, ensuring a smooth running of the sessions. Thank you in advance for your kind co-operation.

Dropping Off/Collecting Children – Please feel free to come into the playgroup outdoor play area in the mornings when dropping off your child and we respectfully ask that you wait until a member of staff opens the main door before bringing your child into playgroup. This will enable the staff to complete our daily health and safety checks and preparations for the day.

At the end of the session we endeavour to have the children in the main room for story/singing time 10 minutes before the end of the session. We ask that you wait out of sight of the outdoor play area until this time so that we can clear the outdoor area ready for home time. Once we have all the children safely in the main room, you are welcome to wait either in the outdoor area or in the craft area where a member of

staff will be available should you need to discuss any concerns.

Parking - Can we please remind all Parents/Carers not to park in the parking bays at Hatley Court. These are their delegated spaces and all Parents/Carers who wish to drive to Playgroup should park on Burgess Road. We have received a number of complaints over the last couple of months from the residents, so please can you remain aware of the residents' access to their property, and ensure that you do not use their properties for turning etc. Please ensure that you inform anyone who may be collecting your child about this to. Thank you for your co-operation.

Community Notices - Please help us to keep up to date will all the latest community activities and events by letting us know of any activities you know about and feel free to bring down a poster/flyer to display.

Wish List - Our 'Wish List' can be found on the 'Parent/Carer Communication Board' board near the kitchen. We will update this as and when we require various things, such as crackers, breadsticks, hand soap and kitchen roll. If you are able to donate anything off of the list it will be greatly appreciated.

Craft Donations - We are always in need of a variety of craft materials such as recyclable materials (e.g. food cartons and bottle tops), spare pieces of materials, stickers, card and paper. Please give these to a member of staff. Many Thanks

Spare Clothes and Other Accessories – It would be helpful if you could supply a set of spare clothing, sun hat, and coat (clearly labelled) for your child during the school year. With the new curriculum we will be making the most of our outdoor time, even if it rains, yippee! Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately so that they can access the outdoor environment whatever the weather.

Fruit Donations – We are lucky that we are able to offer the children fruit on a daily basis. We are able to obtain, through kind donation, some fruit such as apples, oranges, pears and bananas. Maybe you would like to make a small contribution of some rather more seasonal/exotic fruit. All donations are gratefully received.

Collection Book - When completing this book, please give the date you are making the entry, your Child's Name and the Name, Contact Phone Number and address of the person who will be collecting your child, along with the date they will be collecting them. It will need to be agreed with a member of staff how we will identify the person collecting your child. Please sign after you have given these details.

Alternative Contact Numbers – If for any reason you will not be contactable on your usual numbers during a particular session, please ensure that you give an alternative contact number to a member of staff.

Nappy Disposal – We are aware that some of our children are still wearing nappies or pull ups. We work closely with you and your child when they start to use the toilet to make the transition as easy as possible. We are happy to change nappies but are unable to dispose of them in our bins as per the guidance from Cambridgeshire County Council. Nappies and soiled clothing will be placed in a container and can be collected from outside the front gate at the end of session. Please speak to your child's key person if you have any further questions regarding this matter.

Personal Mobile Phones – Please remember these should not be used on the playgroup premises. All phone calls should be finished before entering the gate to the playground and should not be used until you leave. We reserve the right to ask you to finish your call before you enter the premises.

As always if you have any questions or queries please feel free to speak to the Playleader, a member of staff or the management committee.

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Do you shop on-line? You can sign up to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and help raise funds for the playgroup. There are thousands of top sites such as John Lewis, Amazon and Argos there are over 2,700 retailers to choose from. All you need to do is register to support Waterbeach Toddler Playgroup and start shopping!