

St Mary's Playgroup

Newsletter September 2024

We would like to welcome you all to St Mary's Playgroup, it has been lovely to get to know you all and see some children returning back after the holidays.

This term we are encouraging children to settle into and explore the Playgroup room and their new environment, to make relationships with their key worker, staff and other children.

Most days our routines are the same, we start the morning off with welcoming children into the room.

If your child is happy to be left at the door this is great and will help their independence, they are encouraged to take their coats off, put their lunchboxes on the trolley, go to the toilet, wash hands and post their names.

We then ring the bell and all hold hands and sit down for circle time. This is a social time where we sing our Hello song, say good morning or afternoon to every child and adults and then sing our rules song. We then may sing other songs, talk about the theme, count, days of the week etc.

Hello song.

Hello everyone.

Hello everyone.

Hello everyone, its good to see you here.

Our Rules song (sung to the tune on twinkle, Twinkle little star)

At playgroup we have kind hands,

At playgroup we have kind feet

Taking turns and sharing toys, with the other girls and Boys

At playgroup we have lots of fun, Listening to everyone.

Snack time is then open and messy activities like painting, playdough are started and there is time to explore the room and have some fun with their friends.

Although all children are able to take part in the activity on offer if a child does not want to they will not be made to.

We then open the doors for free flow (to the patio area) this allows children to choose whether to play inside or outdoors.

Sometimes we use the back grass area or our forest school area or have bikes out on the front path.

Please make sure children have a **NAMED** coat

We then have story time and then its cross over time as some children go home and some come in for the afternoon session.

We then start lunchtime and the afternoon session starts.

Themes: This term is: Who am I ?

We will be getting to know the children, talking about families, homes and where we live, the pets we have, there will also be celebrations of bonfire night, Autumn and harvest, Diwali, Poppy day, Christmas etc.

When the children have settled in we also would like to have visits from the police, fire and dentist.

We also are hoping to visit a care home and take some children on a short walk to the Banbury cross, lady on a white horse etc.

Snack and Lunch times - A healthy and balanced diet is important for all children, but even more so in a child's early years as it sets up eating habits for when they are older. Children need good diets in their early years as this gives their bodies a chance to properly grow; children need carbohydrates for their energy and protein for their muscle growth and to strengthen their immune system. At snack time we offer milk or water and a healthy snack could contain fruit, vegetables, sweet and savoury biscuits, toast, cheese etc.

Please make sure lunch boxes and water bottled are clearly **NAMED**, we often have several lunchboxes the same and this can cause confusion for the staff and children.

Holidays and Absences - Although playgroup attendance is not statutory, it is important for parents/carers to report their child's absence to playgroup on the first day. Playgroup has to follow guidelines set out by the local authority regarding the regular attendance of all children. Please report all absences by texting or ringing the playgroup phone on 07930122736 (PLEASE NOTE THE PLAYGROUP PHONE IS ON FROM 8AM TILL 3.15PM)

Lending Library

We have a selection of books and games which are available for you to borrow and take home and enjoy with your child. The trolley is either outside on the step or just inside the door for you to help yourself too.

Keyworker meetings

We want every child to achieve to the best of their ability, enjoy their time at playgroup and prepare them for going to school.

To enable us to do this we want to work with the parents and carers and celebrate your child's achievements and we need you to keep us updated on your child's progress at

home, any concerns you may have regarding speech, development, health concerns etc. Key workers will be inviting you in for a short meeting (around 10 mins per child) to discuss your child's development.

This is just to a chance for you to ask any questions, look at your child's profile and work on your child's next steps.

Parental involvement and donations

St Mary's Playgroup is a committee run playgroup and we will be recruiting parents for our new committee soon.

We do have to have a number of parents on our committee to enable us to run. If you would like more information on this please ask a member of staff.

We will be sending out letters nearer the time.

There may also be a skill that you could offer to playgroup e.g. Maybe you could come in and talk to the children about your job, have you got a special skill you could bring? We would welcome you into playgroup.

We are also always grateful for donations of snacks, wet wipes, kitchen roll, bin bags, soap etc.

Bringing in toys from home

We ask that children do not bring toys in from home, If another child picks them up to play, or they get lost or broken this can upset your child.

Website and email address

We are in process of setting up our new website its part set up and you can visit this at www.stmarysplaygroupbanbury.uk

our new email address is: contact@stmarysplaygroupbanbury.uk

Follow us on [Facebook](#)

Term dates:

Half term Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

Last day of term Friday 20th December@ 12.00pm

First day of term Tuesday 7th January