

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

OUTSTANDING!!

I'm sure you've all heard by now that we achieved Outstanding in our recent Ofsted inspection, we are all still on Cloud 9 and so happy and proud. We will hopefully have a piece in the newspaper this week - I'll let you know as soon as I see it is out.

Thank you to all of the parents who sent feedback to the Ofsted inspector, it was very humbling to read all of your comments and realise how much the Playgroup means to you all. I am incredibly proud that I belong to the St Giles Family and it is wonderful to know that you feel the same way.

Bumping back down to earth slightly, here are some important notices:

Pick up and drop off times - Please can you drop children between 9-9.15am only and pick up at 12pm, 3pm or 3.30pm only depending on the day. Its very disruptive to the session to have the doorbell going with late drops and early pick ups so please do stick to these times. Also, please call if your child wont be attending, we have to call if they are not in session by law and it takes a member of staff away from the

children. Thank you for your help in this.

Clothes - please send your children in clothes that you don't mind getting wet, muddy, painted, glooped on...they do get quite dirty! We do sell uniform and second hand uniform if you would like to buy them. Just talk to the staff at Playgroup.

Please also ensure that they are wearing appropriate footwear - wellies are great for outside but not so much for inside, please make sure they have shoes for inside so they can run and play with their friends.

Snack Bar - the children LOVE snack bar! Please can you send in snacks with them to share, either a small snack each day e.g fruit/malt loaf or a larger one to last the week e.g bag of raisins/breadsticks/rice cakes. Thank you very much

Washing up - please sign up to the washing up rota, its a really nice way of having a peek in at your children playing and to get to know other mums and it frees up the staff to be able to spend more time with the children so they all get the most out of the circle time at the end, especially the littlies who need some support to sit and join in.

Contact Details

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Emails:

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Dates for the Diary:

- 9th December - End of term reports
- 9th December - Christmas Fair
- 12-15th December - Key worker meetings.
- 14th December - Nativity at the Ashted Baptist Church
- 16th December - Christmas Party





FUNDRAISING

Emily and her team are busy putting together the Christmas events - she has planned a FANTASTIC fair which is coming on the 9th December 3.30-6pm. A real fairground with rides will be in our playground! Rides will cost between £1-2 each and there are lots of lovely stalls to buy nice things or for the children to play. Please do support us, we are very much looking forward to it!

We are in need of volunteers to help Amanda Tanner to do decorations with the children - please grab Emily or Amanda T to arrange a time to help. Decorations will be on sale at the Nativity on the Wednesday 14th December.

DONATIONS

We are always in need of tissues, glue, hand soap and felt tips - we would be very grateful if you could send your child in with any of these items as we go through a box of tissues per day!

LATENESS

Our Lateness Policy will now be taking effect as we mentioned previously Please see the Policy at Playgroup.

FUNDRAISING SPENDING

We have had to buy new tables and chairs for the Playgroup as the old ones were damaging the floor. Not as fun as other purchases but very necessary items.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are organising a Christmas Party for the children on the last day of term. Please sign up to the Food List which will be out in the next week. We would love to have a couple of volunteers to help out at the party too if anyone is available.

MESSAGES FROM MANDY

TAPESTRY - please send your forms back in, as without these you will not be able to access your children's learning journals and observations. Please ask at Playgroup if you need another form.

Reports will be coming out on the 9th November. Key workers will be available to talk to you about your children between the 12-14th December (except the Nativity day!) We want to work around when you are available so please make sure you arrange an appointment with them at a suitable time for you.

Please can you send children into playgroup in clothes that you don't mind them getting paint, mud, sensory gloop etc on - we can't protect every inch of their clothes! Please also send in a change of clothes and a named bag for wet clothes.

PLEASE label ALL children's clothes/coats/shoes with their own name, its very hard to identify items with old friends, brothers, cousins names on!

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Term Dates:

Winter term
5th September - 16th December
Half term 24th -28th October
Spring term
3rd January - 31st March
Half term
13th - 17th February
Summer Term
21st April - 21st July
Half term
29th May -2nd June



Topic Activity Ideas for Home:

Part of our Ofsted feedback was that we should share our expertise with you to give you ideas to build on children's learning at home. Please let us know if you like/dont like these ideas or if you have any you want to share!

Current Topic : Dinosaurs

Feed me Dino! : Try cutting out a dinosaur face,, making a hole where the mouth is and taping it to a box. Get your child to "feed" the dinosaur with the food that they think it might eat! E.g sticks, leaves, paper, bottle tops...

Stencils: Provide a picture for your child of a dinosaur. Put it on top of a foam or cork mat and give them a pin to push through the paper along the outline. When they have gone all the way round then the dinosaur shape will pop out. This is great for their fine motor skills.

Next Topic: Winter and Christmas

Marshmallow snowmen : Use white paint on black paper for the best effect. Get your child to dip the marshmallow in the white paint and dab onto the black paper to make a snowman shape. Maybe keep some marshmallows separate for eating!

Open-ended winter art: Why not see what your child can create?

Give your child access to open-ended art materials at a table with a large piece of paper and see what they create. Ideas of white items to include are: cotton wool, doilies, lace, yarn, beans, rice, q-tips (be careful as they may put these in their ears!), Coffee filters and tissue paper.

Have fun - why not send us in a picture of your child trying these at home? Photos can be emailed to stgilespg@gmail.com, uploaded to Tapestry or hard copies given in to Playgroup.



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