

CASTLETON PLAYGROUP

SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our new families joining the group this term. We hope you and your children will soon feel at home with us.

PLAYGROUP HOURS

Morning session 9am to 12pm

Afternoon session 1pm to 3.30pm

STAFF

MONDAY Carol Mclver, Sue Smith, Maria Collins, Julie Jones
TUESDAY Carol Mclver, Sue Smith, Maria Collins, Julie Jones
WEDNESDAY Carol Mclver, Sue Smith, Maria Collins, Rawabi Al-anni
THURSDAY Carol Mclver, Sue Smith, Maria Collins, Rawabi Al-anni
FRIDAY Carol Mclver, Sue Smith, Maria Collins, Rawabi Al-anni
CASUAL Sandra Harris

MONDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY ONE TO ONE Louise Newton-Jones

If any parent would like to volunteer on a regular basis we would be very appreciative. Please come and speak to Carol. (We do ask that your child has settled into the playgroup routine before volunteering.)

TERM DATES

Term	Start	Half term starts	Half term ends	Term ends
Autumn	2 Sep 2015	26 Oct 2015	30 Oct 2015	18 Dec 2015
Spring	5 Jan 2016	15 Feb 2016	19 Feb 2016	24 Mar 2016
Summer	11 Apr 2016	30 May 2016	3 Jun 2016	20 Jul 2016

May Day: 2 May 2016 (Playgroup closed)

These dates may be subject to slight change.

You will be given as much notice as possible of any changes.

PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE

The parent representatives on our management committee this year are Chrissie Hemmings (Secretary) Sam Parry and Jannie Allan.

At some stage through the coming year we would like to form a 'fund raising' team, to help our committee members organize a fund raising event – a notice with the date will be put on the playgroup door.

Please help if you can. Most of our equipment has been provided by the parents' fund raising.

Last academic year we bought the children a water tunnel and remote control phones.

3 & 4 YEAR OLD FUNDING

If your child was 3 years old before 31st August 2015 and attends at least three sessions you will receive funding this term and you will only have to pay the 'top-up' fee of £2.15am/£0.70pm per session.

'Top-up' fee - We need to charge a 'top-up' fee as the local authority funding does not cover all of our running costs.

You should have received an 'Information and Criteria' leaflet and returned an agreement form. The agreement form needs to be returned before signing the 'funding form'. (The funding form is signed every term). Please note that the consent form and funding form need to be returned/signed by no later than Thursday 17th September or your child will not receive funding for the Autumn term.

If you have not already done so, please also provide us with a recent Council Tax Bill for proof that you live in the Newport area and a photocopy of your child's birth certificate as it has to be sent to the local authority with the funding forms. Pre-school children are entitled to receive a maximum of five sessions per week (only one session per day). If your child attends another Nursery in the Newport area where you are receiving funding for some of the time, please speak to Carol as we may be able to get funding for the remaining sessions.

SCHOOL NURSERY CONSULTATION PERIOD

We have been advised that the consultation period for the school nursery will commence in September and will be published and advertised shortly. We have been given two dates for consultation sessions at the school. These are Friday 11th September 3.30 to 5.30pm and Monday 14th September 9 to 11 am. However these dates will be confirmed by email when we have further details.

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

We now accept Childcare Vouchers as payment towards fees, if you would like to pay your fees via your Company Voucher Scheme please speak to Carol.

FEE PAYMENTS

We will be attaching our bank details with your child's invoice if you wish to pay your fees directly into our bank account. If you do pay fees by bank transfer we would ask that you send an email of confirmation when you have done this.

FUND RAISING

We raised £190 from the sales of the Andrew Jacob photographs.

MARSHFIELD FETE CAKE STALL

Thank you to all those parents who donated their lovely cakes and to Zoya and all the ladies who helped on the day to raise **£263.25**.

FRUIT AND SNACK TIME

As part of our healthy eating campaign we would be grateful if each child could bring in 2 to 3 pieces of fruit each week. The collection of fruit is cut up and will be shared amongst all of the children, encouraging them to eat healthily and to experience various different types of fruit.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Parents are responsible for their children until they pass through the doors in to the playroom. Can we please ask that you follow the "Yellow Brick Road" painted on the entrance pathway which goes around the car park and follows the path to the playgroup.

While waiting please ensure that your child is being watched at all times and that they stay within the playgroup area - the concrete path and ramp outside the playgroup building.

Please keep older children away from the door at 3.30pm, as it is very intimidating for the playgroup children to walk through a throng and very easy for them to lose their way. The school does not permit dogs on the premises (even carried ones) - please leave them outside the school gates.

School Car Park - Unfortunately parents / carers are unable to use the school car park. Can we also ask that you do not park at the entrance to the gates!

MARSHFIELD MONKEYS

If your child is going to be picked up by Marshfield Monkeys on a set lunch time we will require the permission form below to be completed and returned before we will be able to allow your child to be walked over.

We also ask that these children also bring an empty rucksack so that they are able to put in it any work they have done. Last academic year we had a lot of children who were unable to take their work home as they were unable to carry it – remember your child needs one hand to carry their lunch box and one to hold the playgroup line.

Can we also remind parents whose children are coming from Marshfield Monkeys that we also require fruit for the afternoon snack.

CHILDREN'S NEWS BOARD

In playgroup we have a children's news board, the objective of this is for your child to relate an experience to the group. This activity will develop language skills as well as confidence and self esteem.

Please encourage your child to bring in:-

- pictures or articles from a newspaper/magazine/comic which would be of interest to children
- Your child's special news – certificates, photos of an event they attended, interesting objects, sent or received postcards, photos of new baby brothers and sisters or pets, collections eg shells.

WEEKLY EMAIL – PLAYGROUP NEWS

Every week you should receive our weekly email 'Playgroup News' regarding our interest table, Welsh words and reminders about what's going on at playgroup. If you don't receive this e-mail, please let us know. These emails will commence from 4th September.

BORROW A BOOK

The books in the hallway are for adults and children to borrow. Simply

- Choose a book with your child
- Write the number of the book against your child's name - list on the wall behind book rack.
- Take the book home and enjoy it
- When bringing the book back, cross off the number on the list and choose another book.

NOTICE BOARD

We have a notice board in our cloak room which always has a copy of the newsletter on it. Please check this regularly as this also keeps you up to date with what is going on in playgroup. We also have a poster showing our daily activities on the window opposite the entrance.

CAN YOU HELP?

We would be grateful for any of the following for your children to build fantastic models to proudly display on your mantelpiece!!!

Recyclable resources – big or small boxes, yogurt pots, bottle tops, corks...any clean packaging. **No** toilet roll tubes (considered unhygienic) or polystyrene packaging (dangerous if swallowed). Thank you.

CLOTHING

Please ensure your child brings a waterproof coat to playgroup, as all children are given the option to play outside, whatever the weather, at every session.

Parents are reminded not to send their child to playgroup in new clothes as we do a lot of 'messy' play. The children are required to wear aprons but may still get their clothes dirty.

Please put your **child's name** on coats, lunch boxes, bags, cardigans, jumpers, etc

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs are taken of the children at play. These photographs are taken as evidence for inspectors, information for new parents, for children's 'Special Books' and form part of staff training courses.

Sometimes they are sold to parents for a small fee which is put towards the photographs for children's leaving books. If you do not want your child photographed, please let us know as soon as possible.

TOPICS FOR THIS TERM

This term our topic is 'Under and Above the Ground'. We will also be looking at "Harvest" and "Autumn".

DIARY DATES

TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER NEW INTAKE COFFEE MORNING - 9.30 to 10.30 or 10.30 to 11.30

This is for new parents and children who have been offered sessions for the 2015/2016 academic school year.

WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER AUTUMN TERM BEGINS

FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER HARVEST MORNING/AFTERNOON

Children are asked to bring in food products which will be donated to a local Charity via the Baptist Church.

TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER PHOTOGRAPHER

Those children who usually attend Tuesday morning sessions will have their photo taken unless you advise us to the contrary. If your child does not attend Tuesday sessions and you would like their photo taken, please place your name on the list on the notice board.

FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER PUMPKIN PARTY 9.00 – 12.00pm

All Older Children are invited to attend this morning session.

This is an opportunity for the children to come dressed up in anything they like – fairies, princesses, heroes, witches, pumpkins.....

FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER PUMPKIN PARTY 1.00 – 3.30pm

All Younger children are invited to attend this afternoon Session.

This is an opportunity for the children to come dressed up in anything they like – fairies, princesses, heroes, witches, pumpkins.....

HALF TERM MONDAY 26th OCTOBER – FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER

MARSHFIELD MONKEY’S PLAYGROUP – PICK UP

CHILDS NAME

Marshfield Monkeys playgroup pick up at 12pm

DAY/S

Your child will only be sent with Marshfield Monkeys on the days stated above.

If any days change I will notify Castleton Playgroup by writing immediately.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

UPDATE OF CHILDREN’S RECORDS

Have any changes occurred that require an up-date of your child’s records?
If so, please fill in the attached form and return it to playgroup as soon as possible.

CHILDS NAME.....

Address.....

Home Tel No..... Work Tel. No.....

Mobile Phone No.....

E. Mail.....

Any other change of information e.g. child’s medical or dietary requirement

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