



St Nicolas' Newsletter

Sept | Oct 2020

www.stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk



Welcome back to all our existing parents and our new parents. We are excited to be back at playgroup and to be operating our new 'normal'. We apologise for a delay in sending out the newsletter, we hope you understand we wanted to see how the first few days went to know how we can plan for them all.

With drop off and pick up being that little bit different, we are happy to say that inside we are still very much the same as before. We have changed a few of our resources and implemented different rules but the children are still able to come in and have fun 😊 and so far we have seen lots of smiles from our children and they have been brilliant at listening to all their teachers.

We will still be using malleable materials and having fun with messy play, this will change for each person/group/daily depending on the advice given.

Each day we are cleaning our toys before and after they are used and trying to do a rotation of a few days between using them. However we understand to help settle some children we need to bring out their favourites 😊.



St Nicolas Playgroup (Taplow), The Reading Rooms, Taplow Village Centre, Taplow, SL6 0EX

Tel: 07538 491936

Ofsted Registered No.EY240777

Registered Charity No. 1155996

WC: 7/09/20 - Getting to know Playgroup

To start the term, we will concentrate on settling new children this week and next. During registration time, the new children will be introduced to the rest of the group. We will also introduce/reinforce the rules governing our setting and the behaviour expected of the children whilst at playgroup. As time goes on we hope the children will become familiar with them. We will discuss the evacuation procedure and sound the alarm so the children become accustomed to the noise. This enables us to practice the procedure during this half of the term.

To begin with, there will be simple painting, gluing, sand and water play activities to introduce the children to messy play. The climbing frame will be initially set at a low level with more pieces added as we progress through the first few weeks. This gives new children a chance to practice their climbing skills and become confident in their abilities. The children will be making their own picture spot to sit on when we come together as a group.

WC: 14/09/20 - Health and self-care

In small groups we will be talking about what our bodies need to have a healthy lifestyle, we will look at healthy foods, exercising and our own self-care.

We will speak about our daily routines and how we help our mummy's and daddy's look after ourselves.

We will watch videos of and speak about the different help we get in the community to help keep us healthy (Dentist, Doctors, Opticians) to help the children understand the importance of looking after themselves.

The children will have the chance to use toothbrushes to clean laminated teeth and as a group we will act out brushing our teeth and time ourselves for 2 minutes. We will see if the children can practice counting out the correct teeth to match the mouth.

All our babies will be needing a bath, so we will set up a bathing area for the children to help clean the babies and get them dressed.

In the role play area, we will turn it in to a hairdresser's for children to practice brushing hair.

We will be reminding the children about washing their hands before eating and after using the toilets/coughing/sneezing, covering their mouths when coughing, getting a tissue for their nose's when needed. Keeping fingers out of mouths and noses

We will have sequence cards with different routines for the children to put in order, and different size fruit and toothbrushes to put in size order.

The children will help design their own socks to help playgroup make some pairs for our washing line.

- **Monday 14th Sept – Forest School (parents signed up will be contacted separately).**
- **Tuesday 15th Sept – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**

WC: 21/09/20 - 28/09/20 - Our community / All about me

During this week we will be talking about our surrounding area, we will be going for a walk around Playgroup to visit/ show where Priory Gardens, The rectory, the church and the school are. We will also go on to the green to have a story.

We will talk about the children's surrounding areas at home, and where they go to visit. We will speak about how they can get to their surrounding areas and what transport everyone may use.

On the craft table we will ask the children if they can draw us a picture of their community, labelling their drawings with support of a teacher.

We will have different community flash cards around the room to use in discussion with the children. This will extend the children's vocabulary and help to be a conversation starter.

Through the week we will have different occupations out for our role play area, which we see within our community. (Builders, police, nurse, postman).

During these two weeks the children will have the opportunity to share information about themselves, their families, and their friends.

In small groups we will look at similarities and differences between themselves and others. What the children can do now that they could not do as a baby. Their likes and dislikes and what their favourite activity is to do.

At the craft table the children will have the opportunity to paint a self-portrait, using the mirrors to look at themselves.

We will also touch on learning our body parts and singing along to 'head, shoulders, knees and toes'.

- **Monday 21st Sept – Forest School**
- **Thursday 24th Sept – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**
- **Monday 28th Sept – Forest School**
- **Tuesday 29th Sept – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**

WC: 5/10/20 - 12/10/20 - Colours of the Rainbow

During the coming two weeks we will look at the colours of the rainbow and have set different days of the week for specific colours.

In **the first week** 5/10/20 - **Monday will be red. Tuesday and Thursday will be blue. Wednesday will be pink** and **Friday will be yellow**. The children can wear the colour associated with the day of the week if they wish.

- **Monday 5th Oct – Forest School**
- **Thursday 8th Oct – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**

In **the second week** 12/10/20 - **Monday and Wednesday will be green. Tuesday and Thursday will be orange** and **Friday will be purple**. Children can wear the colour associated with the day of the week if

they wish. During the two weeks the children will be learning/revisiting the rainbow song with Makaton, we will play games with the parachute, make dyed rice/pasta and gloop for sensory play, and use Q-tips to paint a rainbow. The children will also be comparing bears using our compare bear resource, looking through our colour Perspex.

In circle time we will speak about the different colours around us and our favourite colour.

In our role play corner, we will have a market stall, looking at all the different colours of fruit and vegetables and seeing if the children can match the object with the correct plate/basket.

Throughout the two weeks there will be an interest table with lots of different coloured objects to examine.

We will also be looking at the different shades of colours, and colour mixing.

Our story time book will be Elmer the Elephant.

- **Monday 12th Oct – Forest School**
- **Tuesday 13th Oct – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**

WC: 19/10/20 - Autumn

Throughout this term we will already be talking about Autumn during circle time - As the seasons change and the leaves fall around us we will be going on nature walks. On our walk we'll be collecting leaves and sticks, using them for leaf printing/rubbing, sorting by colour, size and shape.

We'll make a pumpkin hedgehog using hammers and sticks, the children will help the adults carve a pumpkin and look at the inside of a pumpkin. Counting the seeds and playing with them in gloop. The children can make a tree picture with either glued on leaves or finger painting independently. There will be an interest table so children can display any objects they find on our nature walks. We will be playing with corks in compost, planting crocus and daffodil bulbs ready for spring, creating spiders' webs and doing marble painting with conkers. We'll also be making witches potions.

We will have a dark corner where the children can experiment with lights and shadows.

As a group the children will be using a parachute to feel the 'wind' and add leaves to make them 'fly in the wind'!

We will be speaking about harvest festival and taking collections to pass on to our local church.

Our story time books will be 'Jack and the beanstalk' and 'The Enormous Turnip' and we will be learning the 'Autumn leaves are falling down' rhyme.

WC: 19/10/2020 - PUMPKIN COMPETITION- a letter will be sent out shortly.

- **Monday 19th Oct – Forest School**
- **Thursday 22nd Oct – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**

26/10/20 -HALF TERM

HALF TERM starts 26 October 2020, Playgroup opens again on the 2nd of November 2020.

Important notice to Parents:

- Please make sure all the correct information is given to the playgroup- Allergies, Dietary requirements and Preferences, correct telephone numbers, email addresses, home addresses.
- Due to allergies within the playgroup we ask for lunch boxes to be healthy and Nut FREE, staff will have to provide an alternative for your child if their lunch contains nuts.
- Please remember if you would like to discuss anything with any staff you are welcome to do so, we just ask for a little bit of time around our new routine. If we are not available at our busy period's we will be happy to arrange a time that suits you and your family.
- Sadly we have had to stop sending King Humpty home 😞 but we are thinking of an alternative.
- Mystery reader will not be able to go ahead until further notice.
- All events will be confirmed at a later date, waiting for confirmation.
- Playgroup will be operating as a large bubble together, we looked at options of making smaller bubbles however made it difficult for the staff to be available for the children while ensuring everything was moved or cleaned before our bubbles swapped around during the day. Also it would have limited our children to all our facilities.

If there is a positive case of Covid-19 within St Nicolas Playgroup, we will all need to isolate for 14 days and sadly playgroup will be closed until quarantine period is finished.

As guidance changes we will continue to stay up to date and to inform you all when needed.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

Dates to put in the Diary

17/09/20 – AGM via Zoom at 20:00

26/10/20 – Half term

Get Sports

- 15th Sept
- 24th Sept
- 29th Sept
- 8th Oct
- 13th Oct
- 22nd Oct

Crescendo

- TBC

Useful contacts

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/home.page>

Burnham Children Centre

Burnham Library

<https://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/>

<https://www.bucksc.gov.uk/services/education/early-years-and-childcare/>

Forest School

- 14th Sept
- 21st Sept
- 28th Sept
- 5th Oct
- 12th Oct
- 19th Oct

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Covid-19 related symptoms;

- If your child is ill at playgroup, we will isolate them and ring you immediately to come and collect them. Children will be comforted while we wait for them to be collected.
- Please do not bring your child in if they are not feeling well and need medication. We will be monitoring all children and will ask for them to be collected if we feel they are unwell.
- It goes without saying that the usual procedures of self-isolating must be adhered to if any member of your family displays symptoms of Covid-19. In this situation, a test should be undertaken. If the outcome is negative your child will be able to return to playgroup.
- Likewise, if any member of the small group displays symptoms, Government advice is clear that all other members of the group; children and staff, must self-isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result is returned.
- In a worst case scenario, if we have a more than two members display symptoms, or children/staff from different groups Playgroup will need to close until further notice.

Clothing

Please ensure all items of your child's clothing is labelled with their name on it. Children often wear the same clothing or items sometimes get left behind at the end of playgroup sessions. We want all children to go home with their things. Please can we ask for children to wear a clean set of clothing everyday.

Toys and other items

If your child would like to bring an item into playgroup, please try to link it to the theme for the week. To avoid conflict situations or items just being lost please ensure all but the most essential comfort items stay at home. We will inform parents of special dressing up & show & tell days. Please ensure any items that are brought in have your child's name on it. – This has been postponed because of Covid-19.

Personal Information needs to be up to date

Please ensure all the correct information is given to the playgroup- your child's allergies, dietary requirements and preferences, correct telephone numbers, email addresses. Due to allergies within the playgroup we ask for lunch boxes to be **Nut FREE**, staff will have to provide an alternative for your child if their lunch contains nuts. Please remember if you would like to discuss anything with any staff you are welcome to do so at any time we are available, if we are not available at our busy periods we will be happy to arrange a time that suits you and your family.

Website

The weekly themes for each term and other information about playgroup is available on our website at www.stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk

Facebook Page

Please like and follow us on Facebook, www.facebook.com/stnicolasplaygroup

What's going on at Playgroup?

Garden/Nature Club- Will be every Friday- We will be teaching the children how to have fun and love looking after our environment.

Sport- Get Sports Inspired- Will attend weekly alternating Tuesday and Thursday. Starting on the 15/09/20.

Music- Crescendo Kids are music and movement classes held once a month on a Wednesday.

Priory Gardens- We will be taking a weekly visit to the Priory Gardens, we understand Children attend different days therefore we will be changing the day on a weekly basis. Please ensure your children have appropriate clothing and shoes. We will be carrying out different activities at the priory garden, some include mud painting, insect spotting, and listening games.

Forest School- Following on from the information sent out, we will be operating forest School on Mondays from 14/09/2020 at the Old Priory Gardens with Mimi from Wild Wood Rangers.

Butterfly and Caterpillar groups- We will continue to do a separate group for the different ages and stages of our children, these will be carried out daily. The activities will sometimes link to our theme or we may carry out activities that we feel is an area we need to concentrate on with our children.

King Humpty- Our take home teddy, King Humpty will be ready to take home. He has had a quiet summer and cannot wait to start having fun with the children. All children will get a chance to take King Humpty home during their time with us at playgroup.

Letters and Sounds- we will start focusing more on letters and sounds from September. Letters and sounds is a phonic resource which is recommended to us by Buckinghamshire county council. It was published by the Department for Education and skills in 2007. Letters and Sounds aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills.

Risky Play- From this term we will be allowing some more risk opportunities in some of the children's activities, this will be slowly introduced and only carried out with the correct supervision. The children will also wear the correct clothing that is needed, provided by playgroup. Children already carry out risk play without realising by running a little faster, jumping from a higher platform, balancing without support, we will like to continue this and introduce other ways children can take risks and explore.

Borrow a Book- From this term we will have the option of 'borrow a book' Within the nursery we have a basket full of exciting stories that children love to share with members of staff. We recognise the importance of sharing stories and the benefits this has on children's learning as well as a perfect opportunity to share some quality time with a child. At the end of the session the children can choose a book to take home, we

kindly ask parents if they can ensure they sign the book out so we can keep track. Please look after our books so other children can also benefit from them to take home and return a week later.

Book of the week- Each week we will have a book of a week and will provide different resources around that story and read the book in depth to all children.

Bring in a Book- we are going to ask two children a week to bring in a favourite book of theirs to speak to their friends about at circle time.

Yoga- we will be following a Yoga regime twice a week, the children have expressed their love for this and also we have received great feedback from parents. At the moment we use 'Cosmic Kids' on a projector screen alongside Hodan.

Term dates

7th September-23rd October
(26th October half term)

2nd November-16th December
(17th Dec half term)

6th January-12th February
(15th Feb half term)

22nd Feb- 31st March
(1st April half term)

19th- April- 28th May
(31st May half term)

7th June- 16th July