



# St Nicolas' Newsletter

Nov | Dec 2021

[www.stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk)



Welcome back to playgroup, we hope you enjoyed the half term break. We would like to also welcome all our new families joining playgroup this term! We are excited to share with you all what is happening in playgroup.

Drop off and pick up will remain the same with temperature checks at the door. We are happy to say behind the scenes it is play and laughter as usual!

Our planning is a little different this term as we are focusing much more on in the moment planning and following the children's interests. We have been spending time really getting to know the children. This has enabled us to get together and plan learning around their interests, celebrating what is important to the children. Children gravitate towards their own interests and therefore learn better in this format.

Tapestry will continue so you are able to view your children's triumph's. You may notice a slight decrease in the numbers of observations, and this is because the new EYFS has stipulated the importance of staff spending time interacting with the children rather than recording. You will however see your children's wow moments and snippets of play. Staff will also be recording one longer 2-3-year-old observations. Any questions then please discuss with us further.

We are still having themes to teach new subjects, but it is flexible to allow us to have the freedom to follow the children's lead.

**Covid-19- We will continue to inform you with any new updates that affect our provision at St Nicolas Playgroup. Please ensure you are also vigilant of any updates on the government website.**



St Nicolas Playgroup (Taplow), The Reading Rooms, Taplow Village Centre, Taplow, SL6 0EX  
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Ofsted Registered No.EY240777  
Registered Charity No. 1155996

### **WC: 1/11/21 - Bonfire night and Diwali**

To start the term, we will be learning about Bonfire night and fireworks, looking at the firework code and learning about how to keep safe.

We will be making shaving foam fireworks, firework straw paintings and creating a night scene firework picture. We will also be dancing with materials and glow sticks pretending to be fireworks.

There will be a simple firework experiment using water, oil, and food colouring as well as maths activities such as following patterns and counting firework pom poms.

The children will be learning about the festival of Diwali. We will learn about where the festival is celebrated, when it takes place and who takes part. We will talk about what form the celebrations take and tell the story of Ram and Sita, and the triumph of good over evil. An interest table throughout the week will display posters, books, and objects pertinent to the festival of light for the children to look at and touch.

Our crafts will include paper plate divas, rangoli patterns and shaving foam fireworks. For our cooking activity the children will make a traditional Indian sweet or "mitai" called coconut barfi traditionally exchanged at Diwali as well as chocolate firework breadsticks.

On the actual day (4th Nov) Priya will dress up in traditional Indian clothes and do a special circle time when I will light candles, incense, play a prayer and tell the story of Ram and Sita. Please let us know if parents who also celebrate Diwali would like to join us and talk to the children too.

- **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov - Forest School**
- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Sept – Forest School**

### **WC: 08/11/21 - Remembrance, British values, and world kindness day**

We will be talking about poppies and the meaning of Remembrance Sunday, and we will be busy making poppy pictures. There will be a British Legion poppy appeal box at the hall. We will practice 2-minute silence using a timer on the 11th of November. The children will also visit the memorial at St Nicolas Church. We will also be discussing British values such as decision making, turn taking and sharing. At circle time we will discuss manners and reinforce these values, particularly with self-expression and confidence. We will also explore different celebrations, traditions, and experiences to promote respect and tolerance amongst each other. World kindness day will be incorporated into this. To promote these values throughout the children's play we will be providing activities that involve turn taking and making friendship chains using handprints. We will be thinking of people who are special to us and using the home corner to practice caring for others.

**12th November-Children in need;** For Children in need, we will be asking the children to come in something spotty and will be doing some Pudsey bear arts and crafts. In circle time we will be talking about children who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov- Forest School**
- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**
- **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov – Forest School**

#### **WC: 15/11/21 - Road safety week**

This week we will be talking about the Police about the work they do. We will be having a visit from the Lollipop Lady and practise crossing the road safely. We will look at pictures of zebra crossings and traffic lights and make our own traffic light biscuits.

As the children love garden play, we will role play crossing the road safely using our ride on toys.

- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov – Forest School**
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Nov – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Nov – Forest School**

#### **WC: 22/11/21 - Disability history month and Hannukah**

This week we will be celebrating Hanukkah. In the craft area we will be developing our maths skills and fine motor skills by playing matching games with candles to create patterns for our menorah. We will be sorting Stars of David in different colours, patterns, and size. We will also be baking Challah bread. Furthermore, we will be copying some Hebrew letters to hang on the wall.

The children will be doing some dreidel dancing to the tune of row row row the boat and pretending to fry doughnuts as oil signifies Hanukkah. This will be done to the song 'I had a little turtle'.

We will have a gift-wrapping station with bows, wrapping paper and boxes and provide a dinner table to lay out a pretend Hannukah feast!

Outdoors we will be making sand temples and will do a science experiment using oil.

For disability month we will be celebrating the differences between us all and thinking about what would make a person disabled. We will teach this through discussion, books, and pictures. We will discuss our senses and play a game to help the children understand what it may be like to be blind by covering their eyes and asking them to use their senses.

We will also be teaching the children more Makaton.

- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov- Forest School**
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov – Forest School**

### WC: 29/11/21; 06/12/21; 13/12/21 - Christmas

This is the time of year when we start preparing for Christmas. The children will be very busy in the craft corner making lots of Christmas items as well as lots of fun in all areas of playgroup.

There'll be lots of practising of Christmas songs and rehearsals of the Nativity play.

**Thursday 9th December** Christmas party for all children (Time TBC)

**Tuesday 14th December** Nativity play for all children & Christmas Raffle at 10.30am

**Wednesday 15th December** playgroup closes for the holidays.

Yoga, music classes run by playgroup, allotment visits and cooking will be taking place throughout this term.

- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – Forest School**
- **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**
- **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec – Forest School**
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – Forest School**
- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec – Get Sports Inspired (£3 and outdoor shoes / wellies if needed).**  
**Christmas Party**
- **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – Forest School**
- **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec – Forest School**
- **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Nativity & Christmas Raffle**
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – End of Term**

## **15/12/21 -End of term**

**The Playgroup Staff and Committee wish you all a Merry Christmas and a blessed 2022!**

**We look forward to seeing you again after the holidays!**

End of TERM 15 December 2021, Playgroup opens again on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2022

**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.
- Playgroup will be operating as a large bubble together. Playgroup will not close if there is a positive case. However, if there is a positive case of Covid-19 within St Nicolas Playgroup, your child will need to get a PCR test and stay home. Close contacts are advised to get tested, but do not need to isolate. Parents will be informed of positive cases within setting and make an informed decision onwards. We will continue to check children's temperatures as they come into setting.

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**

**Thurs 9th Dec** Christmas party

**Tues 14th Dec** Nativity &  
Christmas Raffle at 10.30am

**Wed 15th Dec** End of term

**Get Sports**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 9<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 18<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec
- 7<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Forest School**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nov
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 8<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 12<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 15<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 19<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov
- 26<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 29<sup>th</sup> Nov
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec
- 10<sup>th</sup> Dec
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec

**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/>

## Notes to parents:

### Entrance to Playgroup

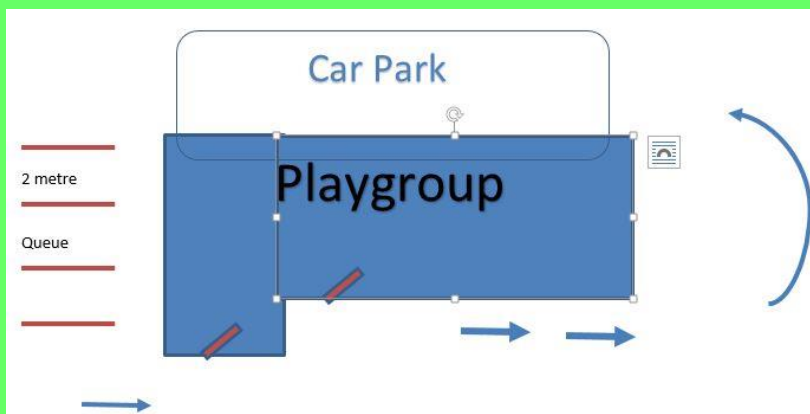
Please can we remind you that the door will always be locked while the children are in the building. There is a door bell to the left of the door to ring for access.

### Drop off/ Pick Up

We ask for parents to use our one-way system and keep their distance from each other while queuing outside. We ask if children can please enter the top room on their own and a staff member will help them wash their hands and put their belongings on their pegs. If a child is struggling to settle there will be space in the top room for parents to be with their child and also outside to help settle them. We ask for Parents to wear a face mask at drop off and pick up and to be mindful of social distancing with other families in and outside the building.

At Pick Up, we will bring your child to the middle door with all their belongings.

Staff will use their judgement on the day to help/support parents the best way they can at drop off. If a child is uncontrollably upset for a long period of time we ask for parents to remain with them until handing them over.



(We ask that parents (and any siblings) do not congregate outside playgroup and that they always adhere to the 2m distancing rule).

### Parking

Please parents be considerate when parking and only park in the marked bays in the car park. For the safety of our children we ask that you do not park along the side of the path opposite the school house.

### Sickness

If your child is unwell or will not be attending playgroup please let us know by calling - 07538 491936. Children should not attend the group for 48hrs following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea. If your child does become unwell with something infectious like chicken pox, please let us know as soon as you can, so that we can warn other parents.

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 group displays symptoms, Government advice is clear that only the person with symptoms should self-isolate in line with Government guidelines.
- In a worst case scenario, if we have a more than two members display symptoms, or children/staff from different groups Playgroup will follow current Government guidelines.

### 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.

### 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.

### Personal Information needs to be up to date

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 **Nut FREE**, staff will have to provide an alternative for your child if their lunch contains nuts. We also have a child coming into setting with a serious **banana allergy**, so we ask you to refrain from packing this in your child's lunch box. 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.

### Website

The weekly themes for each term and other information about playgroup is available on our website at **[www.stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.stnicolasplaygroup.co.uk)**

### Facebook Page

Please like and follow us on Facebook, **[www.facebook.com/stnicolasplaygroup](https://www.facebook.com/stnicolasplaygroup)**

## Healthy Lunch Ideas- (Tuesday and Thursday afternoon)

- Cold Pasta/ rice - tuna, ham, Tofu, homemade sauce (blended Veg), Falafel, Sweetcorn.
- Sandwiches/wraps
- Crisps alternative- Lentils/chick pea snacks, breadsticks with dip, rice cakes, popcorn.
- Chocolate/sweet treat alternatives- Dried fruit (small amount), choc dipped fruit, oat bars.
- Fruit and Vegetables- Carrot sticks, cucumber sticks, chopped up fruit, etc.

We would like to encourage parents not to send in sweets and crisps and try a healthy alternative instead ☺

Reference from BBCgoodfood.com

## Oral Health support for Parents

It is now a requirement for Nursery settings to support parents and children with Oral Health. Due to our sessions being shorter and our facilities not easily accessible for independent brushing. We will encourage children through play to look after their teeth and the importance of brushing teeth.

Here are some things to consider that may help with your child's oral health:

- Re-thinking some foods Children eat: Raisins are just as bad for teeth as chocolate. They stick to children's teeth and contain sugar.
- Playing a 2-minute sound/music: children stop brushing when it's stopped
- Watching videos
- Picking their own toothbrush and toothpaste

## What's going on at Playgroup?

**Garden/Nature Club/ Allotments** - Will be weekly looking after our garden plot and allotments. 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.

**Music**- Under review, usually on a Wednesday.

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**Show and Tell-** If your child would like to bring an item into playgroup for show and tell they are welcome to, 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.

**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 and Fridays at the Old Priory Gardens with Mimi and Gerard 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.

**Scrap Book-** Each child will be provided with a scrap book to take home and return to playgroup weekly to share different drawings, events and activities that happen between home and playgroup.

**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 alternating Tuesday and Thursday. At the moment we use 'Cosmic Kids' on a projector screen alongside Hodan.

## **Term Dates 2021/2022**

### **Autumn Term**

1st November - 15th December

### **Spring Term**

5th January - 18th February

(Half term 21st – 25th Feb)

28th February - 6th April

(Spring Holidays – 7th April – 22nd April)

### **Summer Term**

25th April - 27th May

(Half term 30th May – 3rd June)

6th June - 20th July

(Summer Holidays 21st Jul – 5th Sep)