

Playwell Pre-school



Newsletter April 2014

Dates for this term

Photographer - Friday 2nd May

Bank Holiday Monday - 5th May

Closed for Polling - Thursday 22nd May

Last Day of term - Friday 23rd May

Back to school - Tuesday 3rd June

We hope that you all had a lovely break.

Fundraising

We would like to thank all of you who bought your child's t-shirt last term and it has been great to see the children wear them.

With our cake sale and the t-shirts we raised £467 and we have now purchased our ipads, which the children are going to use regularly. Thank you so much, we couldn't have purchased them without your help.

Website

We now have an official website! We hope to put on our newsletters and other news, closures, term dates etc. The address is playwell-eltham.co.uk, have a look and tell us what you think. We are hoping to put some photos on the page soon and we will be asking for your permission as soon as they are taken.

Parking

The Church have asked us to tell you that parking is not permitted on Church premises at any time, thank you.

Toys from home

We are struggling to keep track on toys that come in from home. Can we please ask that your child does not bring their own toys into school as we cannot be responsible for any losses.

Thanks & Questionnaire feedback

Thank you to all who came to the Open day. We are sure that it was difficult for many of you as some schools were closed. You are always welcome to come and look at your child's records and chat to the key worker.

Thank you too if you filled out a questionnaire. We received 16 and they were very informative. We thank you all for your kind comments;

"A good variety of toys and activities"

"Approachable, friendly staff"

"Caring"

Other comments were:

"Parents not sure what their child is learning at Playwell"

When your child first started, information was in your info pack explaining what the Early Years Foundation Stage is and what we do to implement it. There is also information on websites for you to gain information on what all provision for the under fives should be providing. We also have a large board explaining the EYFS with photographs and info for you to read. Our newsletters every term let you know what we were learning and enjoying over the previous term. If you would like more information please speak to a member of staff.

"More Technology"

We have purchased our ipads and we have a laptop which the children are able to use with adult supervision. We have a Fisher Price digital camera which the children are having great fun using and the children really enjoy using the photocopier to photocopy their drawings, hands and even feet. We will try to make a display of the technology we have and how we use it. We do have a few staff that are a little scared of technology, but we are doing our best to embrace it.

"Collection and drop off of your child is too busy"

Unfortunately there is not much that we can do about being busy as we have to fill our places to keep open and we do get busier as the year goes on, although there will not be any new children starting now. To avoid chaotic collections we ask that you collect your child from their seat so that they do not run towards the door or around in the hall, but if you have any other ideas on this, please let us know.

"Accident forms not detailed enough"

We will endeavour to make them more detailed and try to discuss

the details when you are signing them.

"Parental skills"

Many parents were not sure if they are welcome to share their skills with us and the children. We do have a parent rota where you can put your name down at a time convenient to you and share your skills with us. It is on the board with the staff photos and we do remind you in the newsletter. You are welcome to join us!

"Management Committee"

Some parents/carers were not aware that they have been asked to join the Management Committee. A letter was sent out to everybody and we now have 4 Parent reps. Please look at the board in the middle room which has info on who they are and what they can do for you.

"More learning, less playing"

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is all about learning through play and all staff are trained on how to 'teach' through play. If children are staying with us until reception class we will work towards a level that reception teachers need them to be at. We have very close links with Eltham C of E and the teachers let us know what they expect of children from this age which is invaluable to us. If you would like to speak to us about any concerns we are always available.

"No Garden"

We would love to have grass and trees and lots of room for running around in, but we do only rent the halls and have very little say in the outside area as it is used as a car park at weekends. The children do plant their own plants and flowers to try to brighten it up and the staff do their best to make all activities outside interesting, physical and fun!

"Outside waiting area"

For many years we have been wanting a shelter for you to stand under whilst waiting outside. We are still hopeful that this will happen.

"Newsletters"

We apologise if you do not get a newsletter, we will offer them out every day. They will now be on the website also.

"Termly progress"

You are welcome to arrange a time to look your child's records with your key worker. We will leave it up to you if you want to arrange a meeting for a time that is best for you.

Recent topics and activities

We plan our activities from what the children are talking about and are interested in, although we do try to do a cooking activity and a creative activity at least once a week.

Last term we noticed that the weather changed and looked for signs of spring, such as not wearing our woolly hats and the sun was shining and warm. We then made some Spring pictures.

We enjoyed tasting some pancakes on pancake day and making Mothers day flowers for our Mums.

World book day became book week as we chose our favourite books, talked about them and then painted a picture of them. Dirty Bertie is one of the children's favourites and they made a giant picture of Bertie along with some of the things that he likes to eat. Yuk. It was great to see so many of the children dressed up for World Book day, photos are in the books on the shelf in the back hall.

We have also been focusing on our social skills, sharing, being polite, not hurting each other or breaking toys and how to be a good friend.

During our physical play we are using 'positioning' language, under, over, behind, in front of.

We have been encouraging all of the children to try to write their names as we made cards for Easter and Mothers day.

During these small topics children are learning new language, are encouraged to try new experiences and they are constantly encouraged and praised which raises their confidence and self esteem.

We would like to thank all Parents for being supportive of your children at Playwell.