



# Playwell Pre-school Newsletter

## April 2018

### Dates for this term

**Closed for local elections – Thursday 3rd May**

**Star Wars day – Friday 4th May**

**Last Day of term – Friday 25th May**

**Back to school – Monday 4th June**

### Closed for local elections

As we rent the halls from the Church, we are required to close on election days as the council use the hall for voting. We will be closed on this day and you will not be charged for this day.

### Star Wars day

If your child would like to dress up as a Star Wars character on May the 4th (be with you) we would love it.

### Allergy alert

We have a child who has lunch on a Monday who has an extreme allergy to eggs. We are asking that you do not provide eggs or egg sandwiches in your child's lunchbox on a Monday only, so that the child can sit with their friends and Mum has no need to worry about a hospital visit. Thank you.

### Starting sessions

Can we please remind you that our session starts at 9am, the door is open for a further 10 minutes after that. It is important that your child starts at 9 along with the other children as they form their friendships and start playing with each other straight away. If they arrive late, games and friendships have already been formed. If you are a little late, please ring the bell only once – we do hear it but we can not always get to the door straight away as we are preparing the activities, preparing snack time, helping children in the toilet and settling upset children. If you need to collect your child early and you collect from the gate, again, please press the buzzer once. It does work but we can't always get to you quickly as we are busy with the children. Please be patient with us.

Could we also please ask that you ensure your child puts their name in the pot when the session starts, this enables them to recognize and begin to read their name.





## Fundraising

A big thank you! You raised £155.65 with the cake sale and £220 from the canvas sale. We have purchased more pirates and ship, firefighters, a police station and police figures. We also purchased some new tools and work helmets and vests.

## Open day & questionnaires

We would like to thank all of you who attended our Open day, it was lovely to see you taking part in our activities and meeting our committee members too.

We also thank you for taking the time to fill out a questionnaire, we have read through them and we were very pleased to read that so many of you are happy with our 'warm, welcome and friendly staff' and that we had 'a wide range of activities that change every day'. Thank you all for your comments.

## More learning

All childcare settings up to Reception class have to work within the Early Years Foundation Stage guidelines. We in Early Years are building foundations for your children to become confident, independent learners. Our day to day language includes counting, shapes and colours and we are building confidence for them to ask questions and have discussions with their peers and adults. All of our play has educational qualities, starting at learning to leave their parents/carers and sharing, continuing right up to learning phonics, which we are doing in our schoolwork sessions. This is something that they start in Reception class, so we are giving them a slight head start. If you need any more information on the Early Years Foundation Stage please check out our board and our EYFS folder which advises parents of the childhood stages and what to expect. You can also access more information online. If you have any concerns, please chat to your keyworker.

## Contributions for pay for Bobbin Bunnies etc

We fundraise to purchase toys to equip our setting better. We feel that if parents want to take part in these activities, they can be done away from Playwell at the parents individual choice. However, if you would like to get together to discuss this and raise funds from parental contributions, please speak to our parent reps.

## Facebook

It has been requested that we could put more photos on Facebook. This is a little tricky as we cannot put photos of the children online but we have put pictures on lately without their faces in the photos. Currently Julie does Facebook from home and we need to make sure she remembers to take the SD card from the camera to add the photos on the page! We know we have to work harder at this.

Our posts are scaled down to one post a week on a Friday. It was felt that not very many parents were accessing the posts. We did start this as many parents who work did not get to see which activities were set out and children could not remember what they had done during their day. If you have any comments we would love to chat and get some feedback.





## Outside area

Unfortunately there isn't much that we can do about the size and because it is not our property. A soft surface isn't practical for the other groups who use the outside space.

Our big metal gate in the playground has been broken over the holidays and we are having discussions with the Church about its replacement. This is a very urgent matter as the children need to be outside as much as possible. We will be fencing off the area with our wooden fences and there are always 2/3 members of staff playing with and supervising the children outside. One member of staff will be stationed at the fences during outside time – if you have any concerns, please come and talk to us.

## Accident policy & first aid supplies

We have annual on the spot checks from Greenwich Health and Safety who check our policies and practices and OFSTED inspect our policies extremely thoroughly. Our policies are on the shelf in the back room for you to read through at any time. We do not have ice packs for bumped heads on the premises, so we use cold water for bumps and bruises. We would call you urgently to come and collect your child if they had hurt themselves so badly that they needed an ice pack to take down any type of swelling.

## Parent reps

Don't forget that our parent reps, Jessica and Lilianna are very friendly if you want to chat about anything Playwell! They are running a lending library on a Monday afternoon to raise some funds to buy some new toys, please support this by borrowing a book or donating some to the library. Thank you.

## Check out our website - [www.playwell-eltham.co.uk](http://www.playwell-eltham.co.uk)

All of the newsletters and letters that we give to you are on the website and weekly updates of the children's learning is posted on facebook. Term dates and other important information is on the website as well as on the 2 notice boards, please check them regularly, just in case you think that you have missed something.

## Parent rota

If you are interested in spending some time with us once your child has settled please sign up for our Parent rota. There is one in the friendship centre and one by the back door. This is a great opportunity to work with all the children and to perhaps bring a new skill with you too! We love having parents in as it does help to develop great relationships between staff and parents and carers.

**Don't forget- we are available at all times if you have any concerns or worries regarding your child.**

Thank you, The Playwell team

