



Playwell Pre-school Newsletter

April 2023

Dates for this term

Monday 1st May – Bank holiday

Thursday 4th May – Closed due to the halls being used for a polling station

Monday 8th May- Bank holiday

We hope that you enjoyed your Easter break.

If you have applied for a Reception or nursery in September and you have been advised that you have a place, please let us know as soon as possible. Also, if you are staying with us in September can you please let Julie know if you would like extra sessions.

If your child is heading to Reception class in September, they are still taking part in our 'schoolwork' sessions. They are working in small groups 2-3 times a week and are working on recognising and writing names, concentration skills and maths skills. These sessions are based on the individual child's learning needs. If you have any questions regarding schoolwork, please chat to your key worker.

Lunches

Lunch bags are being brought in and we have regularly asked that boxes are provided as we cannot fit lunch bags on the trolley or in the fridge and they can get very dirty and collect germs. As the warmer weather is coming and, adhering to our food policy- ALL lunches must be stored in the fridge for health and safety reasons unless it is warm food in a thermos. You do not need to provide a water bottle but if you feel you must, please put your child's names on it or ensure that it fits in your box

We cannot fit all of the bags in the fridge- please provide a box- thank you

If your child is staying for lunch, we ask that you provide a healthy lunch with no sweets in a lunch box and not a lunch bag.

Could we also ask that grapes and tomatoes are cut in half as they are a choking hazard and no nuts or peanut butter as we have children with allergies.

If your child has a yoghurt in a pot please provide a spoon.

50th Anniversary

Playwell is 50 at the end of the month and we have some celebrations planned.

Monday 24th April – service in the Church at 2.30. We would like all children to attend so they can sing for you. Our Chairman and trainee minister and Playwell friend Cherie will be holding the service which will only last 20-30 minutes. We will be taking photographs for the senine magazine so please let us know if you do not want your child in the photos.





Refreshments will also be available after the service

Tuesday 25th April – Dressing up day!

Thursday 27th April – Party time! 1.30- 3pm. All children are invited, please let us know if our child will be coming – thank you.

From the 24th April there will be a display of photos of Playwell over the years in the friendship centre.

Coronation

We will be celebrating the coronation of the King from the week beginning 1st May. We won't be having one big party as we will be having one for our 50th celebrations the week before, but we will provide treats for the children for snack time.

Parking

We have been made aware that Playwell parents are parking on the driveway at the front of the Church. This can be dangerous for our little ones leaving the building. Please think of all of the children and their families when collecting or dropping off your child. We know that it is very difficult to find a space around Playwell but please park elsewhere. Let's keep everybody safe.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our questionnaire and we thank you for your positive and kind responses.

- Relaxed environment.
- Consistent, warm and friendly staff.
- Not being rushed out at drop off.
- Great, varied activities.
- Understanding children's needs.

Thank you for these lovely comments, it shows us that we are on the right path to achieving our goals.

More trips

We are aware that we do not go out on many visits. We heavily rely on parent help for our trips out and we are aware that many of you work and your time is precious and being asked to come out on visits can be difficult for you. We never do trips over the winter as the weather is not suitable. We do not do major outings as we know that for everyone, money is tight and to hire coaches, pay for admissions to farms etc is very expensive as well as paying for the childcare that we are providing. We will be having our Spring walk to the park and woods soon and our sports day in July- weather permitting.

Weekly forest school

We have to have a dedicated space in the woods and a forest school trained member of staff plus parent helpers. There is very little funding from Greenwich for us to train a forest school practitioner, so unfortunately this is not practical for us at the moment.





What the children are focusing on- we do post on facebook everyday with the learning outcomes of the activity provided, along with photos. If you do not have facebook, please come and ask us at the end of the day.

Water play

Children must wear aprons when playing in the water and we are always available to pull up their sleeves when needed and we will change them when necessary. Sometimes though, if we are dealing with other children we may not be quick enough to remind children of aprons and sleeves.

Dangerous toys

As a pack away pre-school, we put the equipment out every day and put it away again on the same day. This does enable us to check the equipment twice daily whilst carrying it. We would never put equipment out that is dangerous.

Provide reading books for home

It is very rare for us to have children who can read and we do have reading books in our book cupboard which we will share with early readers during their time with us. We cannot afford to send books home as they may get lost and then we cannot afford to replace them. The library will have these books for you to borrow.

More academic work

We do advise you when you come to learn of our ethos within Playwell. Children learn through play and our practitioners have been trained on how to teach children how to learn vital skills through their play with their peers. All childcare settings in England must work under the umbrella of The Early Years Foundation Stage and we are inspected on our outcomes by Ofsted. Our EYFS board in the friendship centre advises you on how your children learn in our setting and if you want to read more please read through the Early years Foundation Stage information online. We must also be aware that the children in our care are only 2.3 and 4 and they must be able to explore who they are, ask questions and become independent confident learners before they start on academic work. Please come and talk to us if you have any concerns.

There were also a few comments that we cannot respond to in this newsletter as they are of a personal nature. If we haven't responded to your concern – please come and talk to us, we are always available.

Please come and talk to us if you ever have any concerns about your child, their learning and our practices.

We would like to thank you for supporting us in the following notices from the last newsletter- we appreciate your support





Dressing up

Dressing up dresses are not the best clothes to wear to pre-school. Children are not allowed to use the climbing frame when wearing them, they can get very dirty and it does upset other children who are not wearing dressing up dresses. We ask that you leave them at home.

Toys from home

We also ask that your child does not bring toys from home. We cannot be responsible for them as they can get lost or dirty and again, it can upset other children. We have lots of toys here that your children really enjoy playing with, so we ask that you leave them at home.

Unwell children

If your child is feeling unwell, give us a call and please do not bring them into Playwell and keep them at home until they are feeling better and please give us a call or a text to make us aware. Covid is still around and we need to protect our Playwell community – children staff and parents – thank you.

We must advise you that we cannot give calpol to your child.

Donations

Don't forget to donate to our fruit tin, it sits on the table every morning and we ask that you donate change or notes for us to go and buy the snacks for the children – thank you.

Clothing

Please name your child's coat and cardigans, sometimes the children have the same ones and it can get very confusing!

You do not need to bring a bag into Playwell unless your keyworker asks you to, we have many spare clothes .

Parent rota

We will have the parent rota up this term as we can now allow you to come in and stay with us for a session once your child has settled. We would love you to come and join us for some creative work, storytelling or anything else you may be interested in.

All of the newsletters and letters that we give to you are on the website and daily updates of the children's learning is posted on facebook. We post photos too, so please like us.

Term dates and other important information is on the website as well as on the notice board, please check it regularly, just in case you think that you have missed something.

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

