

Playgroup Gazette

Term Dates

Summer Term – 19th April – 23rd July

Half Term – Tues 1st June – 4th June

We are **CLOSED** Mon 31st May

Summer Holidays – 26th July – 3rd Sept

This Terms Activities

Another busy term ahead of us and hopefully the last one under covid restrictions! Our theme is going to be looking after ourselves and our planet. We will be learning about healthy eating, teeth, emotions, and exercise and what we can do to help look after our planet by recycling, growing our own vegetables etc. We were incredibly lucky to be gifted some caterpillars to ‘grow’ our own butterflies so we will be watching and learning how this happens. We will put regular posts on our social media so you can watch too. Obviously, we will be using The Very Hungry Caterpillar to help with this and our healthy eating activities.

Happy Smiles

In September, the new EYFS will include a new requirement to promote the good oral health of children. In preparation for this we will be taking part in the Happy Smiles accreditation from June. One of the things we need to do is find out how many children already attend the dentist. You do not have to take part in the audit, it is purely voluntary, but it will help us the more that do and obviously the wellbeing of your children. We will be adding lots of information to our website to do with this and our dentist in the village are extremely excited to work with us promoting the importance of looking after our teeth. Hopefully when the restrictions are lifted we are going to arrange a visit from them to do some activities with the children and maybe take away some of the scariness of going to the dentist.

LFT

Everybody is now allowed to take the lateral flow tests. These are easy to use and do not take long. The result is back within 30mins. You can either go to collect them from Woodgreen Leisure Centre in Banbury or arrange to have them delivered to your house by going on the government website. We are encouraging all our families to do this so you can support us in keeping the staff and our children safe especially now that we are all mixing more with other people. 99% of the staff are not vaccinated yet and will be some of the last to be vaccinated because of their age. We thank you in advance for co-operating in this endeavor to keep covid from our door.

Parking

I have been asked to remind parents about parking in front of the gates in Osney Close. (on the left hand side, as you come into the close, just before the hedge) Please, please be more considerate when dropping off/picking up your children for playgroup I have no excuses for the behaviour of parents when this is brought to my attention and I have to apologize of their behalf. I understand you may only be minutes but if they need to use the driveway it must be infuriating and I'm sure if this happened constantly in front of your driveway you would feel the same. Ok rant over but I promised to bring it to everyone's attention again.

Covid

- **No one** should attend the setting with symptoms of covid-19. Some symptoms are: -
a new continuous cough, temp above 37.8 degrees or loss of/change to the sense of taste and smell. We ask that we are informed immediately of any new symptoms.
- If your child displays symptoms, whilst at playgroup, your child will be sent home immediately.
- Everyone is now entitled to testing.
- Emergency contacts will need to be updated, before attending playgroup, especially if grandparents or vulnerable people have been listed. We ask that these are changed to more appropriate contacts.
- For further information please visit Gov.uk website

Talking Together

We are very excited to be part of a new pilot scheme called Talking Together. Many professionals including speech therapists, oral health, health visitors, Early help and Early Years Special Educational Needs inclusions teachers will meet monthly to improve speech outcomes across Oxfordshire in Early Years settings. Molly and Carly have become the communication leads of the setting and they will have tasks to do between each meeting, this will enable them in supporting you as parents, the children and the staff, maximising the learning potential and encouraging high talking opportunities for the children.

The intended outcomes of the project are to:

- Improve the quality of the learning environment to support early language development for all children attending settings within Banbury
- Support the early identification and support of children with speech and language difficulties
- Support language development for children who are not at a typical level of development
- Give early years practitioners the skills and confidence to support parents more effectively in order to improve children's home learning environments

We are hoping that we can use this as a tool to get direct contact from professionals, so that we can deliver the best practise for you and your child. If you feel concerned or have any worries about your child's communication and language, please do speak to us and we can pass on your queries.