

# Playgroup Gazette

## Term Dates

October Half Term – Mon 25<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup>

Xmas holidays we are **CLOSED** Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Dec – Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan inclusive.

School returns Weds 5<sup>th</sup> Jan & Nursery Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Jan (please note we will have no spaces for extra children)

## This Terms Activities

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. Hope everyone enjoyed the break and got to see some sunshine. This term we are learning about the jobs people do especially those who help us. We will be doing vets, Dr's and nurses, fireman, etc and turning our home corner into various places of work. Next week we will do the vets so if your child has a toy pet they would like to bring in to be 'looked after' by our resident vets they will be more than welcome! We are hoping to arrange some visits from real professionals in these areas to come in and chat with the children. We will also be doing Autumn, (even though as I write this it feels like the middle of Summer!) and making our delicious apple crumble for them to take home for you to try. We try to put as many pictures of our activities as we can on to our social media sites, for you to see, and maybe get inspiration for play at home. You can find us on FB and Instagram. This term our parent challenge is to bring something in, to put on our keypersons board, to do with people's jobs. It can be a painting/drawing, photo, model etc. The idea is for you to do something with your child for them to bring in to show everybody and put on display. Hint: Pinterest is a good source of ideas! We look forwards to seeing your efforts.

## STAFF

So, we have said goodbye to Carly and Jess and wish them both well at Uni. Over the Summer holiday's we also had Lily leave unexpectedly, due to personal reasons, but we have welcomed back two old members of staff, Charlotte, and Jo, who have slotted back into Playgroup life like they have never been away! We have Lucy, who has been here since January, doing two days a week for her Level 2 qualification at college, she has now passed and is starting her Level 3 fulltime with us. Becky has also started and is hoping to do her Level 3 as well. She has swapped roles as a carer for the elderly to the young, some may say not much difference there!

## Covid

Unfortunately it is still with us and although all the restrictions are now lifted we are still going to continue, as we did before, at least until all the staff have been double vaccinated and will no longer be required to self-isolate if we have a case. We legally need to have a certain number of staff here so if we lose staff it might mean we need to reduce the number of children or even shut until they're back. I'm sure everyone will appreciate how hard we have worked, to keep playgroup going during the last eighteen months, so a few more weeks, we feel, won't hurt, especially as there is a number of cases at the school already!

If the children are outside in the garden, can parents not enter the playground, we will bring your children to you, this is for covid as well as safety reasons. We thank you for your co-operation with this.

**NUT ALLERGY** – Please can we ask that you don't put any food containing nuts in lunchboxes, this includes Pesto, because we have a child with a severe allergy to peanuts! If your unsure of anything please message or ask us, we always check lunchboxes before putting them out just to be sure they are safe.

**Egg allergy** – We also have a child with an egg allergy so no egg sandwiches, boiled egg, scotch eggs etc.

**Healthy Smiles Accreditation** – Over the summer we attained our Healthy Smiles accreditation. As part of the new EYFS we need to teach the children about dental hygiene, incorporated into this is healthy eating. We have always promoted healthy eating but as a treat we did allow children to bring in birthday cake when celebrating their birthdays. We have decided not to do this anymore and instead we will give the children a present of a book which is much healthier and promotes language, communication and literacy instead. It does also mean, that as much as we appreciate parents bringing in cake, we need to set an example to the children, so we are no longer going to be able to check out your baking skills honed over the pandemic!

## Notices

**Fees** – Just a reminder that the fees have gone up as from this September. They can be found on our website.

**Nits** – Please can we ask everybody to check their children's hair regularly for nits. Despite the fact we have all had to keep our distance from other people nits seemed to have survived the restrictions! Surprise, surprise.

**Parking** – Please can we ask that when parking in Osney Close you take care not to park in front of the gates, on the left hand side as you come in, just to save confrontations with the people who live there.

**Wet Weather Clothing** – Please can all children bring in a **waterproof** all in one and wellies, we can keep here, so we can play outside even when it's wet.