



Playwell Pre-school Newsletter

April 2019

Dates for this term

Last Day of term – Friday 24th May

Back to school – Monday 3rd June

Photographer - Friday 17th May

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts last term. Our sponsored circuit raised £634 and our cake stall raised £104. We have already purchased many toys to add to our stocks and the children have enjoyed opening and playing with them. Pirates, pirate ships, pirate island, fire station, fire engines and people for the dolls house are among our purchases.

Last term we celebrated St Patrick's day, St David's day, Mother's day and Easter. We enjoyed World book day by dressing up and made the home corner into a library. The children have also been working hard on their schoolwork and their caring and sharing and forming new friendships.

We also had our parent open day and it was so lovely to see so many of you join us for a chat and enjoy the children's activities. We also thank all of you for taking the time to fill out a questionnaire, they are really helpful for us to evaluate our practices. OFSTED do like to have a read through them and check that we are following up on parents thoughts. They were all so very positive and we thank you for the very lovely things that you have written. We would like to put some of these comments on the website for prospective parents to see.

The children are thriving.

The staff are great- nurturing, interested in the individual child, warm, approachable, kind and friendly.

The range of activities are great and that they are changed every day.

High level of care.

"Outside/green space"

We have always prided ourselves on the massive indoor space that we have and we are very aware that we don't have grass outside. When schools have a grassy area outside they have to section it off after rain as it is slippery due to health and safety issues. We can go out in the rain and just after if the children wish to. We do try very hard to soften the look of our





outside area with plants, artificial grass and our den. We do rent the halls and outside space from the Church and other Church groups use these spaces too.

“Large hall is tired”

You are right! The Church are currently getting this sorted, although work cannot be done until the Summer holiday as we cannot have workmen on the premises at the same time as the children.

“How are the children disciplined/if at all?”

The children need very little discipline and we encourage the positives of their play and friendships. We explain to the children that certain behaviour is unkind and are encouraged to apologise, we may remove the child from the activity to diffuse the situation if necessary. We will then speak to the parent and discuss solutions.

“Facebook/ events”

On our half termly newsletters we always have sections about liking our facebook page and all term dates and special activities are on the top of the newsletter which you will find on our website. Letters are also given out about events and posted on facebook. We will endeavor to put dates on the noticeboard as well.

“Looking through the door at singing time”

It was noted by a parent that they were given a stern look by a member of staff when they were looking through the door at singing time. Unfortunately, some of our staff can't see that far without glasses, so would have been unintentional. This has been discussed with staff.

“No hot food at lunchtime”

You are welcome to bring hot/warm food in. Bring it in a thermos and it won't be put in the fridge.

“How do we supervise hand washing?”

Staff supervise toileting and hand washing before lunch. At other times, we trust the children to wash their hands with soap (we do smell their hands!!) as we are encouraging them to be independent. We do ask them to wash their hands if we notice they are dirty, after gardening and painting. We do also have hand sanitizer that we encourage them to use.

“Names on pegs”

We have tried this in the past. There aren't enough pegs for the children to have their own individual one and they will get confused if they share.

“Room temperature”

It has been noted that the temperatures of the rooms vary greatly. We don't have a lot of control over the heating system, some rooms are bigger than others and have a different amount of heaters. We do try to manage the heating as best we can. We do put on/take off children's outer jumpers if necessary and open windows when needed.

Thank you for filling out the forms!





A couple of reminders –

We have been noticing that children are bringing lip balms to pre-school and are sharing them with other children. Please do not allow your children to bring these to school, thank you.

May we also advise you that our staff toilet is not a public toilet and is for staff only. There are toilets in the friendship centre and the Eltham centre just down the road. We thank you for your understanding.

We hope that the weather will be getting warmer soon, so just a reminder that applying sunscreen to your child is your responsibility, we cannot apply it, sorry. Sandals are not appropriate for our activities, pumps and trainers are great for running and climbing.

Please do not let your child wear dressing up clothes to pre-school, other children want to wear them and get a little upset. They also can get dirty or lost within our dressing up and we know that they do cost a lot of money. They are also not practical for running, climbing, bike riding or messy activities.

Please provide your child with a named coat or jumper as we do go outside every day. Many of the children do not know what their coat looks like and having a name written in it really helps. We also ask that your child wears appropriate shoes for climbing and running.

If your child is staying for lunch, we ask that it is a healthy lunch with no sweets, you do not need to provide a drink as we have milk and water available. No peanut butter and no nuts as we have children with allergies and could we also ask that grapes and tomatoes are cut in half as they are a choking hazard. If your child has a yoghurt in a pot please provide a spoon. Thank you.

If you really must bring a bag, please leave it on the hatch in the big hall not on the coat rack. We have a lot of coats to fit on the hooks and the children either can't find their coats when we go outside or cannot hang them back up again as the bags are in the way. We are also asking the children to try and put their coats on by themselves too.

If your child is unwell could you please give us a call or a text.

If you have changed your phone number whilst your child has been at Playwell or your contacts have changed, please let us know. We hope that we never have to use them, but we may need to get in touch with you if there is an emergency.

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.

If you are interested in spending some time with us now 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.





We hope that you all have an enjoyable term at Playwell.

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

Thank you, The Playwell team

