

CASTLETON PLAYGROUP SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our new families joining the group this term.

We hope you and your children will soon feel at home with us.

SESSION TIME CHANGE - AFTERNOONS

As the school has changed its session times, please note that our own afternoon sessions will now start at 1.00pm and finish at 3.30pm.

STAFF

We were very sorry to see Helen Warner leave us in July. She had been with us for many years and during this time became a valued member of the group.

Rawabi Al-anni will replace Helen. Rawabi was a student placement with us a year ago, when she was undertaking the Cache Diploma in playgroup practice. Rawabi returned to us this summer in order to settle back into the playgroup routine and also for the children to get to know her.

MONDAY	Jane Bradley, Sue Smith, Maria Collins, Carol McIver
TUESDAY	Jane Bradley, Sue Smith, Maria Collins, Linda Hicks,
WEDNESDAY	Jane Bradley, Sue Smith, Linda Hicks, Rawabi Al-anni
THURSDAY	Jane Bradley, Sue Smith, Carol McIver, Maria Collins
FRIDAY	Jane Bradley, Sue Smith, Carol McIver, Rawabi Al-anni

Pam Taylor (Advisory Link teacher) will attend Friday afternoon sessions. Julie Jones has volunteered to help us this year and Dee Thomas and Ann Evans are also returning as volunteers. We are very grateful for their support. If anyone else would like to volunteer on a regular basis we would be very appreciative.

PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE

In July we had to say goodbye to Cath Turner. During her time on the committee the playgroup benefited from her hard work and enthusiasm. We are very, very grateful to not only Cath but also her family for their support over the past few years.

The parent representatives on our management committee this year are Teresa Morris, Ann Fisher and Janet Carney.

Once again, this year we would like to form a 'fund raising' team, (better known as 'the beautiful people'!), to help our committee members whip everyone up into a frenzy in order to raise lots of money at the Christmas and summer fund raising events!

A get-together, in the playgroup kitchen or maybe outside, if we have an 'Indian summer', (any type of summer would be good), with a cup of coffee **and** biscuits will be held soon for all those interested.

Please help if you can. Most of the equipment has been provided by the parents fund raising.

BASIC SKILLS QUALITY MARK

In July we were reaccredited with the 'Basic Skills Quality Mark'. This quality mark is only awarded to those settings that provide a high standard in Literacy and Numeracy.

EARLY YEARS HEALTHY AWARD SCHEME

In July we were reaccredited with the Healthy Playgroup Award. During the year we undertook topics as follows:-

Autumn Term	Healthy Eating
Spring Term	Dental Health
Summer Term	Keeping Ourselves Safe

SUMMER FUND RAISING

Again, another marvelous amount of money was raised this summer.

The Teddy Bears Picnic	853.07
DVD	118.00
Photographs	103.50
Easter Shop	<u>47.45</u>
Total	<u>£1122.02</u>

We would like to thank everyone who gave their time, effort, prizes, cakes and money for the benefit of the children.

The playgroup could not have the high standard of equipment and activities without your support.

A special thank you to Greenmoor Nurseries, who, once again, very kindly gave us car loads of plants to sell at the Teddy Bears Picnic.

Most, if not all of the money raised will be spent on waterproof outdoor play clothing for the children.

The aim of our future fund raising will be to replace equipment eg cars and trainset and improve our outdoor play equipment.

DONATIONS

During the summer term we received some very generous donations.

This money will be used to up-grade some of our IT equipment and increase our road safety equipment.

We are very, very grateful to the people who very kindly made these donations to the playgroup.

TESCO SPORTS AND COMPUTER VOUCHERS

Thank you all very much for giving us your sports and computer vouchers.

With the sports vouchers we were able to purchase:- skipping ropes, a new parachute, and two sets of large tactile balancing blocks.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Please do not let your children play near the classrooms opposite.
Parents are responsible for their children until they come into the playroom.
It is very, very, important that you advise us if your child is going to be collected by anyone other than the usual person.
Please keep older children away from the door at 3.30pm, as it is very intimidating for the playgroup children to walk through a throng and very easy for them to lose their way.
Playgroup children will only be handed over to an adult.

3 & 4 YEAR OLD FUNDING

If your child was 3 years old before 31st August 2008 you will receive funding this term and you will only have to pay the 'top-up' fee of 80p per session.
Some of you may be wondering what the 'top-up' fee is. We need to charge a 'top-up' fee as the local authority funding does not cover all the running costs of the group.

The funding forms are ready to be sent off but require the parent's signature. Please call in to sign as soon as possible.

If you have not already done so, please also provide us with a photocopy of your child's birth certificate as it has to be sent to the local authority with the funding forms.

TERM DATES

Term	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term End
Autumn	8.9.08	27.10.08	31.10.08	19.12.08
Spring	7.1.09	16.2.09	20.2.09	3.4.09
Summer	20.4.09	25.5.09	29.5.09	17.7.09

**These dates might be subject to slight change.
You will be given as much notice as possible of any changes.**

MORNING CHILDREN

If there is anything special happening during a session your child does not attend e.g a visitor, trip or party, they will be welcome to take part, but, you must advise me before hand in order to ensure the correct Adult: child ratio

THE 'BOOK PEOPLE' BOOK CLUB

Each term children will bring home book club leaflets.
Playgroup receives very good commission on each order placed.
The commission is used to purchase books for our 'Borrow a Book' library mentioned below.

BORROW A BOOK

The books in the hallway are for adults and children to borrow.

Simply

- choose a book with your child
- place it in the plastic envelope provided
- write the number of the book against your child's name -list on the wall behind book rack.
- take the book home and enjoy it
- when bringing the book back, cross off the number on the list and choose another book.

TOPIC FOR THIS TERM 'Books and Stories'

Book topics will be farms, bears, people, autumn/harvest, animals, transport.

'The Balamory Book Bag' is for your child to bring a favourite book from home. When your child brings the book bag home, we would be grateful if you could choose one of their favourite stories with them, put it in the bag and to bring to their next playgroup session. The story will be read to the group. This activity will hopefully encourage enjoyment of books and increase confidence and self esteem.

CHILDRENS NEWS BOARD

We are continuing our Childrens News Board.

The objective of this is for your child to relate an experience to the group.

This activity will develop language skills as well as confidence and self esteem.

Please encourage your child to bring in:-

- pictures or articles from a newspaper/magazine/comics which would be of interest to children
- your child's special news – certificates, photos of an event they attended, interesting objects, send or bring postcards, photos of new baby brothers and sisters or pets, collections eg shells.

CLOTHING

Please ensure your child brings a coat to playgroup, as, unless it is a howling gale, they will probably spend time outside during most sessions.

Please put your child's name on coats, cardigans, jumpers, etc

CAN YOU HELP?

We would be grateful for any of the following for your children to build fantastic models to proudly display on your mantelpiece!!!

Junk resources – big or small boxes, egg boxes, yogurt pots, bottle tops, corks...any clean packaging. **No** toilet roll tubes (considered unhygienic) or polystyrene packaging (dangerous if swallowed). Thank you.

We are always keen to have visitors into playgroup and go on trips to local places of interest. If you know somewhere for the children to visit or someone who would like to visit playgroup, please let us know.

Wed 1st October 9.05 – 12.00 VISIT TO BERRYHILL FRUIT FARM

Sorry, this has had to be cancelled due to conditions caused by the poor summer weather.

Fri 3rd October HARVEST MORNING

Children come to playgroup at 9.05am adults are invited at 11.00am

This is for all older children.

We would be grateful if your child could bring something for the food hampers - fruit, veg, tins, packets...

The hampers will be given to the Salvation Army.

The children will prepare some delicious refreshments for your delight!!!!

Tue 21st October HOMELINK COFFEE MORNING

This is an opportunity for parents of older children to see their child's records and have a chat to the supervisor.

Please remember that you do not have to wait for one of these sessions in order to speak to the supervisor.

The supervisor is available before and after a session or by appointment during a session.

If you wish to see your child's records at any other time this must be arranged.

Fri 24th October PUMPKIN PARTY (morning only)

All the older children are invited to attend this morning session.

This is an opportunity for the children to come dressed up in anything they like – fairies, princesses, heroes, witches, pumpkins.....

As we do not want to upset the younger children by breaking their playgroup routine with a party, the afternoon session will be as normal for those younger children who normally attend Friday afternoon sessions.

HALF TERM 27TH – 31ST OCTOBER

Week Commencing 3rd November FIRE SAFETY WEEK.

Fire, matches and fireworks are very, very, hot.

Fri 7th November PHOTOGRAPHER (morning only)

The photographer will be visiting the group to take individual and family photographs.

If your child does not usually attend a Friday morning session, and you would like their photo taken, you may book a time to bring them in. A list of times will be on the noticeboard soon.

The group picture will be taken next year.

UPDATE OF CHILDRENS RECORDS

Have any changes occurred that require an up-dated of your child's records?
If so, please fill in the attached form and return it to playgroup as soon as possible.

CHILDS NAME.....

Address.....

Home Tel No..... Work Tel. No.....

Mobile Phone No.....

E. Mail.....

Any other change of information eg child's medical or dietary requirement

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