

Ravenshead Playgroup Newsletter: November/Dec 2020



Bonfire night: fundraising fun week! **Welcome back!** We hope you all had an enjoyable and restful half term. We are looking forward to a very busy term with lots to celebrate including Bonfire night, Remembrance day, Diwali, Children in need (Pudsey) and our Christmas celebrations.

I would like to express a huge personal 'Thank you' to all parents for your cooperation and understanding during this current situation, respecting our position, in not entering the room, as we negotiate our way through this. The children have been very accepting and we maintain as much normality for them as possible. Please keep us informed of your family's health and wellbeing. We have a duty to report any confirmed cases to the Department for Education. If your child presents any sign of illness then inform us accordingly. Thank you again

Annual General Meeting: We are in the process of restructuring our organisation, following advice from our Accountant. Once this has been accepted by Ofsted we will arrange a meeting. None of this will affect your child, other than we have reduced the maximum number of children during the Covid19 period and possibly for the foreseeable future to 16 children per session.

As a Charity, we are run by a Committee of volunteer parents, without which we would have to close. As children move onto pastures new our members leave so we are always looking for new support. It is a lovely way of being involved in our community service and meeting new people. Please consider if you could give us a small amount of your time to be involved in your child's playgroup experience. This would be subject to a DBS.

Invoices/Payments & Newsletter. Newsletters and most invoices will now be delivered via email so please check your emails at the beginning of every new half term. You can liaise directly with our Office Manager (Jenny Dearman) for transfer of payments.

Donations: Again, a '**huge thank you**' to all who have supported playgroup with their generous donations of beautiful jigsaws, books, toys etc all in tiptop condition. This helps us immensely and keeps our activities varied and inviting for our children.

Transition to school: We ask that you inform us if your child is to move onto school from January, either part time or full time. This enables us to keep our register accurate, apply for relevant funding, establish expected income and staff accordingly.

We would normally arrange some transition visits to school but at present we are not able to do this. Please liaise with school as to what they have in place, to assist your child in their transition to their new provision.

January 2021' sessions/ funded places: Could you inform us if you are wishing to change any sessions in January. If your child is due to receive a funded place we will ask you to complete the relevant forms in the coming weeks. The funding declaration covers January to April term. Also, if you receive **30 hour funding** entitlement then please ensure that your online registration is still valid, using the update system so that it does not expire. If it expires, we do not receive the funding and have to invoice you accordingly, to retrieve the funding shortfall.

IMPORTANT: Birth Verification: If your child is to receive childcare funding we must see their birth certificate for verification, as this is a requirement specified by the Nottinghamshire County Council.

Sick children & medicines: The latest guidelines issued by the Health Protection Agency: states: If your child has been **sick** or had **diarrhoea** that they must be kept away from the setting for a period of **48 hours**. This aims to reduce the spread to others who attend. If your child appears to be ill we will contact you accordingly. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. **Please consider: if your child requires Calpol: are they well enough to attend? We are not able to administer any non-prescription medicines. This is of particular importance during this current Covid19 situation.**

Medicine storage: Please do not store any medicines/inhalers in your child's bag as these are hung in reach of, at the height of our children. We need to minimise any risk of children accessing medicines. Inform staff members and they will label and place in a safe place. Thank you for your cooperation.

IMPORTANT: Absences: If your child is absent from playgroup then please inform us in advance or on the morning. We have a duty to follow our policy, to provide reasons for any absences and contact parents accordingly if we have not received a call. Please appreciate this comes under Safeguarding children requirements.

Polite reminder: Spare clothing: Please provide an adequate supply of spare clothing, especially if your child is being toileted as our spare supply is limited. We welcome any spare, pants, socks, leggings and jogging bottoms.

Labels: Could you label all items of clothing, bags and lunch boxes to ensure there is no confusion for your child. This helps staff immensely, when trying to find the correct belongings. Also, could you ensure that lunch boxes are separate to bags and contain an **ice pack** as we have inadequate refrigeration storage available to us.

Toys: **FAVOURITE TOYS:** Could we also request that you **discourage** your child from bringing in, small favourite toys, as they can easily get misplaced amongst our vast array of toys and this can prove most distressing for your child and can cause problems related to sharing.



If we do see the arrival of **snow** then we will follow the lead of the C of E school to close according to the conditions. Please look on the Ravenshead C of E School website.



We plan to have a 'Christmas fundraising fun week' during the last week of term and ask that we all dress in our Jolly Christmas Jumpers.



We plan to make our lunches fun with crackers and party hats. Each child will receive a little Christmas gift.

Please could we ask for any kind donations **of raffle prizes, wine, Christmas hamper foods, gifts**, towards our Christmas raffle and we aim to sell tickets prior to this. Look out for the letter with enclosed tickets.

Term dates:

The last day of term prior to the Christmas break will be: **Friday 18th December 2020**, returning on, **Monday 4th January 2021**. Please note if the school ever has any inset days then we will still be **open as usual.**

Finally:

We would like to wish you all a 'Wonderful Festive Season' and thank you all for your continued and most valued support!



**With kind regards
Christine, committee and team.**

