



# St. Mary's Playgroup

CHURCHDOWN

## Newsletter

November 2013

Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to report that the children have all settled in well to their sessions.

Should you have any queries or concerns about your child or playgroup, please let Belinda know, or email me at [playgroupstmarys@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:playgroupstmarys@yahoo.co.uk), so we can resolve the matter as soon as possible.

Our planning this term involves activities and learning inside and outside. We have covered fireworks with beautiful sparkly artwork and have a shoe shop in Playgroup to go with our Welly Walk week. Don't forget to hand in your sponsor money as soon as you can. Children will need to bring a warm coat and wellington boots every day to playgroup. Please ensure your child's belongings are labelled, this includes their coat and wellies. We will soon start concentrating on our Christmas preparations which will include making decorations and Christmas cakes!!



## Invoices

This term's invoices and Hours Over Entitlement invoices have all gone out. Payment is now due so please make these are paid promptly. Please put your child's name in the reference so we can track payment if you pay by BACS and email me to let me know you have paid. We can accept Childcare Vouchers as payment towards fees. If you would like to pay your fees via your Company Voucher Scheme, please get in touch with me. We use several schemes and can register for your company scheme if not already registered.



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## Ways you can help

- ❖ We are always looking for volunteers to help in sessions. If parents or grandparents are able to offer a morning a month, or a couple of mornings a term, this would certainly be appreciated. If you can offer your time, then please speak to Belinda or Kath.
- ❖ We are always grateful for cleaning product donations, boxes of tissues and sensitive carex hand wash.

## Christmas Fayre – Thursday 5th December, 5pm – 7pm.

The Christmas Fayre is the biggest fundraiser of the academic year and requires lots of time and hard work by the fundraising team. If you are available to help the fundraising team during the days leading up to the fayre, we will be very grateful. If you can help with distributing posters etc, setting up the afternoon before or on the day itself please let Shirley Danson, our new fundraiser, know. We will be collecting items for the raffle, hamper and tombola in the coming weeks. These should be chocolates, soft toys and Christmas themed items for now.



## Christmas Party

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Children's Christmas party will be held during the two sessions. (Children's entertainer & visit from you know who!)

If your child does not normally attend this session and would like to, or would like to swap a session that week to attend, please let us know by 3<sup>rd</sup> December please.





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## Nativity Play

We are planning to hold this event in the church on the 14th December. Coffee and mince pies will be available in the hall beforehand. Details to follow.



## New Committee

Thanks to the few parents that attended the AGM. We now have a new committee. Our new Chairperson is Nicola Minett-Smith. The first meeting was held at Playgroup on this week. Items discussed were:- buying an iPad to use in conjunction with the Reception classes in the school to monitor and track the children's progress on an Early Years app, new policies to update, taking on a new member of bank staff, changes to the CRB system to DBS and who will take responsibility for paying for these. As you can see, it's a wide and varied agenda and we need people with different experience and knowledge to support. If this sounds like your cup of tea, have a think about joining us and come along to the next meeting.

Thank you for...

- your generosity this term with the snack contributions, it has really helped us to keep our costs down.
- informing us of absences due to illness or holiday this term; it helps us to provide a safe, secure environment for your child and helps to avoid unnecessary charges.
- all the hard work of all the previous members of the last committee who have now stepped down.



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**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – We will finish on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December, after the parties so holidays begin on FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER – FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY.**

Playgroup will re-open Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

**Term Three** Begins - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**Term Five** Begins - Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014

**May Day Bank Holiday** -Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**May Bank Holiday** – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**Term Three** Ends - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Term Five** Ends - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Inset Day** - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Term Six** Begins - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**Term Four** Begins-Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Term Six** Ends - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2013

**Term Four** Ends - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2014

**Bank Holiday** – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014

## Preparing for Big School

Part of our role at Playgroup is to get your child ready for school. In order to help with this please could you make sure your child's coat and t-shirts are labelled. It is distressing for the children to not be able to recognise their coat and doesn't help with building their independence. Also we have noticed that the children's lunch boxes on a Monday and Wednesday are not as healthy as they could be. Ideas are available for healthy lunch boxes in Playgroup. We should be encouraging sandwiches or crackers, with fruit and veg, and avoiding chocolate and sweets. The school has very strict rules about lunch box contents so we should start encouraging the children to eat healthily now. Any larger items or round items, eg sausages and grapes, should be cut lengthways to prevent choking issues. Please don't forget to put in a drink!

## School Admissions

**Was your child born between September 2008 - August 2009? You must apply for a school place now. See the poster in Playgroup for more details.**

Ofsted  
Piccadilly Gate  
Store Street  
Manchester  
M1 2WD

Email: [enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk)

**Tel: 0300 123 1231**

## Contact details

St Mary's Playgroup  
Cheltenham Road East  
Churchdown, Gloucester  
GL3 1HU

**Tel:** 07749 713742

**Website:**

[www.playgroupstmarys.org.uk](http://www.playgroupstmarys.org.uk)

**Email address:**

[playgroupstmarys@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:playgroupstmarys@yahoo.co.uk)



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**Administrator:** Sharon Cann. Tel: 01452 538991