



Painswick Playgroup Newsletter

September 2019

Welcome!

Welcome back everyone; we hope that you all had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for a brand-new term at Playgroup! A big hello to new parents and carers, and welcome to the children joining Playgroup this term: Nora, Willow, Hester, Charlotte, Theo, George, Wilf and Oscar. We hope that everyone is settling in well and making new friends.

Message from our Chair

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you and your children to the start of another year at playgroup and introduce myself as the current Chair of the Committee.

I have two sons, the eldest attended playgroup for two years prior to starting school in 2018, and the younger has been at playgroup since January. I have first-hand experience of how wonderful this setting is, not only for the children attending, but for all those involved as parents and carers.

Most of our sessions are filling rapidly, and it is fantastic to see our facility being utilised so well. We still do have a few spaces across various sessions, including whole days, so please ask a member of staff if you are looking to increase your child's hours.

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with the play leaders, myself or any member of the committee.

We are an active and inclusive group of parents, and as a community playgroup we are here to support and involve you, as well as your children. There are plenty of ways to get involved and I would encourage you to participate in any way that you can.

Lizzie Bennett, Chair

New Committee

Your current committee members are:

Chair	Lizzie Bennett
Treasurer	Lisa Warnaby
Secretary	Susie Andrews
Newsletter	Marisa Vaughan
Committee	Maria Townley Chloe McCarthy Debbie Goodfield Robert Davies-Boulton Kate Buser Kelly Howell Ross Jones

Contact details for all committee members can be found on the notice board in the Playgroup foyer.

Meet and Greet evening

There will be a meet and greet session for new (and old) parents and carers on Tuesday 17th September - 7:30pm at Playgroup, along with the Committee AGM. Everybody is welcome! We also have five vacancies on the Committee that will need to be allocated for playgroup to run effectively. Come and find out more about how Playgroup is run, see what we are planning during the next few terms and meet other parents. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Keeping in touch

In addition to yellow notes in trays, emails and this termly newsletter, we also have a Parents noticeboard in the foyer above the Sign In/Out book. It's a useful place to look for key information such as dates of upcoming committee meetings, term dates and information on special events such as the Christmas Party and photographer visits. We are also

happy to include information from parents such as business advertising. If there is anything else you would like to see on this board, please let us know, we would love your input!

We also have a great new Facebook page. If you're new to the page, you will need to answer a couple of security questions and gain approval from the administrator before being accepted. To join our facebook page, please search for Painswick Playgroup and find us under 'Groups'.

Topics this term

During Term 1 we will be settling in and exploring the theme 'All about me'. Children will be making handprints, having their picture taken, painting pictures of themselves and letting us know about their families.

We are also teaching the children weekly sign language, so look out for the signs on the door in the foyer so you can see what your child is learning!

Learning journals

From this term onwards, we will be changing the way we update you on your child's learning journey. Parents who have been attending Playgroup before this term will know that we used to write a weekly update in a book. We have now moved on to an online system called Tapestry, which replaces these weekly paper diaries. Please see staff if you have any questions.

Health and safety

Please can all parents/carers remember the following points to ensure the welfare of children at all times:

1. Close the gate behind you when entering and exiting Playgroup, even if you can see that another person is walking in or out.
2. Do not allow children to swing on the gate, or to climb along the gate.
3. Do not send your child in with either drawstring bags or carrier bags.
4. Cherry tomatoes, grapes, cherries, olives and other stoned fruit should be cut in half lengthways and the stones taken out.
5. Remember to sign your child in at drop-off time and out at the end of the day.

Usborne book sale

Usborne will be visiting Playgroup on Friday the 8th of November, and there will be books available to buy from 2pm. More info nearer the time.

Photos

Anne-Marie Randall will be coming to Playgroup on Thursday the 17th of October to take portraits of all the children. These photos make lovely Christmas gifts for family, as well as raising funds for Playgroup. More detailed information about the photography session will be sent out in due course.

Easter Egg Hunt 2020

The Easter Egg Hunt is our annual fundraiser and has become an institution and an attraction for local Painswick residents and visitors from beyond the village. Last year we raised £4.5k, all of which goes back into the Playgroup so that we can provide the best experience and setting for our children. The next Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday the 11th of April. Full planning will begin in earnest in the New Year, but some preparation is already underway. As a community playgroup, we ask that all parents/carers support us by helping out, whether that's volunteering on the planning committee, donating cakes and raffle prizes, or even giving some of your time on the day. It's an incredibly fulfilling event to be part of, and a great way to meet people.

In particular we always need people with experience in PR, social media and graphic design, as well as people who are just prepared to get stuck in! If you'd like to know more or want to help, please contact Susie: susieandrews101@gmail.com

Summary of Important Dates 2019 - 2020

We have compiled a list of key dates that are *already set in the Playgroup academic year*. We are letting you know these dates in advance so that you have enough time to organise work arrangements etc should you need to. There will be other dates to look out for throughout the year, but these will be published in this newsletter nearer the time.

If you have any questions about the following dates, please ask a member of Playgroup staff, or a member of the committee.

Tuesday 17 September	AGM and Committee meeting 7:30pm - Playgroup
Thursday 17 October	Photos by Anne-Marie photography
Friday 25 October	End of term 1
Monday 4 November	Start of term 2
Friday 8 November 2:00pm @ Playgroup	Usborne book sale
Monday 16 December	Nativity dress rehearsal
Tuesday 17 December (11am)	Nativity performance 1
Wednesday 18 December (11am)	Nativity performance 2
Friday 20 December	End of term 2 Christmas Party 12:00 – 14:00pm
Monday 6 January 2020	Inset day – Playgroup closed
Tuesday 7 January	Start of term 3
Friday 14 February	End of term 3
Monday 24 February	Start of term 4
Friday 3 April	End of term 4 – 2pm

Saturday 11 April 2020	Easter Egg Hunt 12:00 – 16:00pm
Monday 20 April	Start of term 5
Thursday 21 May	End of term 5
Friday 22 May	Inset day – Playgroup closed
Monday 1 June	Start of term 6
Tuesday 30 June	Leavers group photo
Tuesday 7 July	Fun Day and Parents afternoon – Playgroup closed
Tuesday 14 July	Leavers Party 13:00 – 15:30pm (all parents or carers invited)
Friday 17 July	Taster session for September starters – Playgroup will be shut to pre-school children in the morning
Friday 17 July	End of term 6 Teddy Bears Picnic 12:00 – 14:00 All children invited but they must be supervised by parents/carers

Marisa Vaughan

