



Painswick Playgroup Newsletter

October 2018

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: Finley, Harry, Heidi, Iris, Joshua D, Raife, Sophia, Sophie, Sylvie and Isla. 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 new Chair of the Committee.

I have two sons, the eldest attended playgroup for two years prior to starting school this September and the younger starts at playgroup after Christmas. 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 full, 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 I would encourage you to get involved in any way that you can.

Lizzie Bennett, Chair

New Committee

Your new committee members are:

Chair	Lizzie Bennett
Treasurer	Lisa Warnaby
Secretary	Susie Andrews
Newsletter	Marisa Vaughan
Committee	Brock Kennedy Maria Townley Chloe McCarthy Debbie Goodfield Chantell Mustoe Kate Buser Kelly Howell Ross Jones

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

Next Committee meeting

Thursday 15 November – 7:30pm at Playgroup.
Everybody is welcome! Come and see what we are planning and share your thoughts and ideas. Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

Keeping in touch

In addition to 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 have also been working on a great new Facebook page. The old one will be shut down by the end of next week, and a new one has been set up but only for parents/carers of current children. You will need to answer a couple of security questions and gain approval from the administrator before being accepted. To join this new facebook page, please search for Painswick Playgroup and find us under 'Groups'.

Social evening

The Committee have arranged a social evening in the pub so that parents can get to know each other a bit better. This will take place on Thursday 1 November from 7:30pm at The Falcon. Everyone is welcome!

WhatsApp social group

Some parents have expressed an interest in setting up a playgroup parent WhatsApp group to arrange social events and to ask questions eg if you need to check a date etc. . To join this group, please text your name and phone number to Marisa on 07773 368702 so that she can add you. (n.b this group is not for disseminating official Playgroup information).

Topics this term

During term 1 and 2 the children will be focusing on all about me and festivals, which will include Diwali (carving our pumpkin and tasting Indian food) and Christmas.

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!

Early collection – please read

Allowing children to be picked up early from playgroup is causing disruption to the afternoon sessions, therefore it has been decided that Playgroup will no longer offer routine early pick up. Collection time from playgroup is 3.30pm and anything other will need to be agreed in advance with one of the play leaders.

We are of course aware of the need for children to be collected early to attend doctor/dentist appointments or to fit in with collection from other schools (not The

Croft), and we are happy to accommodate these instances - please do discuss this with the play leaders who will be happy to consider individual cases.

Wellies and spare shoes

We are happy for children to come to Playgroup in wellies, but with the weather getting more unpredictable, we would ask you to bring in a spare pair of shoes or slippers for your child to wear indoors to avoid mud and dirt being brought inside.

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.**

Medication

If your child is feeling unwell and has been sent to Playgroup, please let a member of staff know if you have already given them any medication, including when the last dose was administered. This is to protect your child from an accidental overdose. Please also ensure that you give any medication to staff rather than leave it in children's bags.

Notice to leave

If your child is moving on from Playgroup, please let a member of staff know as soon as possible. There is a notification period specified in your contract, and we would ask you to adhere to this agreement. If you have any questions, please ask a member of staff who will be happy to provide you with the correct leaving forms.

Staff/Parents Christmas Party

Our Staff/Parent Christmas party will be taking place on Friday 7 December at 7:30pm. A venue in Painswick will be booked in due course. Everyone is invited, and it is always a great night out! If you would like to join us, please put the date in your diary, and further information (including how to book and meal choices) will be sent out next term.

Nativity play

Closer to Christmas, the children will be rehearsing a nativity play. The dress rehearsal will be on Monday 17 December to which siblings at the Croft School will be invited.

Performances to family and friends will be on Tuesday 18 December and Wednesday 19 December at 11am. All children are welcome to take part in all performances whether they normally attend the above sessions or not. More detailed information about the roles and timings for the nativity will go out next term.

Children's Christmas party

This will take place on Friday 21 December from 12.00 to 13.45. More detailed information about the roles and timings for the nativity will go out next term. Please take note that parents/carers will take responsibility for their own children at the party.

Raffle prizes

We will be holding a charity raffle to be drawn at the Christmas party. Can you, other family members or your employer help with prizes? Please let a member of staff know if you are able to donate anything.

Easter Egg Hunt 2019

This is our annual fundraiser and has become an institution and an attraction for people well outside of Painswick. Last year we raised £5k profit, all of which goes back into the Playgroup so that we can provide the best experience and setting for our children. Full planning will begin in earnest in the new year, but some preparation is already underway. Planning is usually led by Committee members, but we always need plenty of people to be involved, and it's an

incredibly fulfilling thing to be part of and a great way to meet people. If you weren't sure about committing to being on the Committee but wouldn't mind being involved in a discrete project, please let Susie know: susieandrews101@gmail.com

There are a few things and skills we will need in particular, such as exciting raffle prizes, someone who has experience in social media/PR, and someone who can use a design package such as Illustrator or In Design. Please let us know if you can help!

Marisa Vaughan

On behalf of the Staff and Committee

Summary of Dates – cut out and keep!

Friday 19 October	End of term 1
Monday 29 October	Start of term 2
Thursday 1 November	Parents social evening 7:30pm The Falcon
Thursday 15 November	Committee meeting 7:30pm - Playgroup
Saturday 3 November	Croft School fireworks night 5:00pm - 7:00pm
Friday 7 December	Staff/parents Christmas meal
Monday 17 December	Nativity dress rehearsal
Tuesday 18 December (11 am)	Nativity performance 1
Wednesday 19 December (11 am)	Nativity performance 2
Friday 21 December	End of term 2 Christmas Party 12.00 – 13.45
Saturday 20 April 2019	Easter Egg Hunt