



# Painswick Playgroup Newsletter

October 2019

## Welcome!

Welcome back everyone; we hope that you all had a lovely half term break! A big hello to new parents and carers, and welcome to George SS who has joined playgroup this term. We hope that you are settling in well and making lots of new friends.

## Message from our Chair

For those whose children have just started at Playgroup, I really hope they are settling in well - and for those whose children have returned after the Summer, welcome back! I am the new Chair of the Playgroup Committee, after a year as Secretary and a year before that as a Committee member. I have three girls: Emme is in Year 3 at The Croft, Molly left Playgroup this July and is now in Reception, and Vivien will be starting at Playgroup in February. We've lived in Painswick for just over two years now, and Playgroup has been a huge part of our lives here. Molly adored her time here and Vivien is chomping at the bit to start!

We are a community playgroup, which means that we rely on parents and carers being involved. There used to be rotas for providing snacks, cleaning etc, and the opening hours were for much shorter sessions, but over the years Playgroup has developed and is a much more professional outfit these days. However, we still completely rely on people getting involved. Playgroup is run by a parent-led Committee, and when we say that Playgroup can't function without it, we really mean that - the Committee essentially employs the staff and governs how it is run, and if we do not have a functioning Committee then Playgroup would legally not be able to open its doors. This year we had only one new parent stepping up to be on the Committee, and are now running on much lower numbers than in previous years. When we send out letters and emails asking for volunteers or involvement, can I assure you that we are NOT

overrun with people offering help, and we need YOU to come forward!

That's my piece said - and in return please do feel that you can speak to the staff at any time about any worries or suggestions you may have, or indeed to any of the Committee. Our contact details are all on a list in the foyer. We want to do our best to make sure Playgroup is run as well as it can be, and your child's experience with us is nothing but positive.

With best wishes for a fun and exciting year at Playgroup.

Susie Andrews

## New Committee

Your current committee members are:

<b>Chair</b>	Susie Andrews
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lisa Warnaby
<b>Secretary</b>	Lucy Western
<b>Newsletter</b>	Kelly Howell
<b>Committee</b>	Debbie Goodfield Ross Jones Lizzie Bennett Sarah Leaver

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

## 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.

## Topics this term

During term 1 the children have enjoyed the topics all about me and Diwali; painting pictures of our families and making Diwali lanterns.

During term 2 the children will be focusing on the five senses. We have lots of exciting activities planned to encourage the children to explore new smells, tastes, sounds and sounds!

Rachel has settled in beautifully and is a valued member of the team. She has brought new ideas to playgroup and is getting to grips with our routines and Tapestry brilliantly.

## 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.**

## School Admissions 2020

If your child is due to start school in September 2020 you should receive a letter from Gloucestershire County Council regarding admissions. If you have not received a letter by December please contact the admissions office directly on 01452 425407.

## Cold Weather

With the change in weather please remember to send your child with appropriate clothing; we aim to play outside everyday so a warm coat is essential!

## Drinks

Please remember to send your child with a drinks bottle everyday.

## Handbook

Playgroup have a new handbook which will be provided to future parents before their child starts. Please find a copy in your child's tray; it contains lots of information which may be useful in the future!

## Staff/Parents Christmas Drinks

Our Staff/Parent Christmas drinks will be taking place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. 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 will be sent out shortly.

## Nativity play

Closer to Christmas, the children will be rehearsing a nativity play. The dress rehearsal will be on Monday 16 December to which siblings at the Croft School will be invited.

Performances to family and friends will be on Tuesday 17 December and Wednesday 18 December. 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 20 December from 12.00 to 13.45. 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.

*Kelly Howell*

*On behalf of the Staff and Committee*

## Summary of Important

### Dates 2019 - 2020

Friday 8 November 2:00pm @ Playgroup	<b>Usborne book sale</b>
Saturday 9 November	<b>Croft School fireworks night 5:00pm - 7:00pm</b>
Thursday 12 December	<b>Committee meeting 7:30pm - Playgroup</b>
Friday 13 December	<b>Staff/parents Christmas drinks</b>
Monday 16 December	<b>Nativity dress rehearsal</b>
Tuesday 17 December	<b>Nativity performance 1</b>
Wednesday 18 December	<b>Nativity performance 2</b>
Friday 20 December	<b>End of term 2  Christmas Party 12.00 – 13.45</b>
Tuesday 7 January	<b>Start of Term 3</b>