



Reg. Charity No.
1134075

Bengeo Playgroup
Bengeo Primary School
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Hertford, SG14 3DX

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NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2010

After just a few days at school it is lovely to see all the excited faces of children all round the school settling into their new routines. We hope you all had a very enjoyable summer break, we love to hear about your children's adventures.

As everyone knows there are many changes happening through out the school, one of which is the playgroup hours, it is essential that we stick closely to the opening times of 8.55am - 11.25am.

We are planning a parent's night out to help new parents meet each other as well as those whose children will only be starting in the spring term. So please join us on Wednesday 29th September at the Greyhound at 8pm. That will also be a chance to meet the committee members who work behind the scenes to help manage and raise funds for Playgroup. There are a few roles coming available for any who wish to contribute.

TERM DATES

Autumn Term	Friday 3rd September – Friday 17th December
Half Term Break	Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October
Christmas Break	Monday 20th December '10 – Wednesday 5th January '11

NEED TO REACH US?

Don't forget, if you need to reach us to let us know your child is ill or you are running late for collection then call us on **07957 364 149**. The phone is switched on from about 8.30am until the end of session. For all other matters, please continue to liaise with our Administrator Dawn on 01992 583 914, Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm.

FROM SALLY AND THE TEAM

Autumn Begins

This term the children are going to be having fun down on the farm with the animals and learning about the forthcoming harvest. The theme throughout the resources and equipment will be based around three of our wonderful story sacks - Little Red Hen, Old Macdonald and Itchy Bear. The children will have the chance dig up vegetables, transport them on the tractor and sell them at the vegetable market!

Main Links to the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage)

Being Creative - is about how children respond in a variety of ways to what they see, hear, smell, touch or feel and how, as a result of these encounters they express and communicate their own ideas, thoughts and feelings.

Reading - is about how children understand and enjoy stories, books and rhymes, recognising that print carries meaning, both fiction and fact.

I'm thirsty!

Don't forget your child is allowed to bring in their own water bottle, which they can help themselves to at any time during the session. Just remember to clearly label the 'bottle' with your child's name and water only please - no juice or squash!

FROM LIZ OUR COMMITTEE CHAIR

Staff News:

Congratulations to Liz Horrell who has now received her NVQ Level 3 certificate in Childcare, Learning and Development - well done! We are fortunate to have a dedicated, fully qualified team at Bengeo Playgroup who commit a lot of time to attain these qualifications, 5 of the team are Level 3 and 1 at Level 2. We are also delighted to announce Rachel Milroy, our Learning Support Assistant, has joined our Relief Team.

Other News:

A **BIG** thank you to Bryan Shuttlewood (Ollie's dad), who very kindly restored our much loved climbing frame. It's been returned and is already back in action - the children love it!

Committee Chair Vacancy:

As in all areas of life, all good things come to an end and it is time for me to move on. I have enjoyed my time as Chair of the Management Committee; it is a rewarding role made all the more pleasant by the team of staff I have worked with and support from organisations like the Pre-school Learning Alliance. Essentially, Playgroup is looking for a volunteer parent/carer to step forward to fill the role of Committee Chairperson.

I am available to give a full handover to make it as easy as possible for the new person to take on this role. The Playgroup is not permitted to operate without a fully elected Committee and for these reasons, it is vital that the position be filled as soon as possible.

To help give an overview of what this means in terms of responsibilities and time, please find below a description of key duties:

- Attend the Induction Day to welcome new families and recruit new Committee members (three times a year - January, April and September)
- Attend 'core' meetings with the Playgroup Leader and Administrator, which take place every half term and last approx. one hour
- Set the agenda and chair the Committee Meetings, which take place every half term and last approx. one hour
- Ensure the Committee reviews, updates and implements the setting's Policies and Procedures
- Be responsible for staffing matters, with support from the Playgroup Leader and the rest of the Committee

If you would like to find out more details, please don't hesitate to give me a call on 07917 417 702 or have a chat with Annette Skelton - Annette was a Committee Chairperson for two years before she joined the team!

FROM SAM OUR FUNDRAISING CHAIR

It was great to meet all the new children and parents at the induction and a big thank you to those who said they would be willing to help with fundraising. The first fundraising meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday 29th September, 9.30am at my house- 30 Glebe Rd, Bengeo. It would be great to see as many of you as possible, please let me know if you are able to attend (so I know how many biscuits I will need!). Children are, of course, welcome and we have a conservatory full of toys to keep them busy! The meeting shouldn't last longer than an hour. We will discuss forthcoming events and set the wheels in motion for the pre-christmas fundraisers. My phone number is 07832 383920 or you can contact me by email- fundraising@bengeoplaygroup.org.uk.

FROM DAWN OUR ADMINISTRATOR

Parent Declaration Forms for 3 year old funding will be handed out shortly, please make sure forms are completed and returned ASAP and children who attend additional Nurseries must obtain a signature from their Administrator. Parents who do not return their forms by the date stated will be required to pay fees in full for this term.

Any outstanding fee payments should be made immediately unless special arrangements have been made.

A photocopy of your child's birth certificate, playgroup collection forms, immunisation dates, two year check date, ethnic monitoring forms should all now be returned.

If you have any queries or problems paying please call me on 01992 583 914 between 9.30am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday (term time ONLY).