

Newsletter January 2012

Bengeo Playgroup
Bengeo Primary School,
The Avenue, Bengeo,
Hertford, Herts, SG14 3DX

Telephone: 01992 304 477 • Website: www.bengeoplaygroup.org.uk
Email: bengeoplaygroup@gmail.com



Reg. Charity No. 1134075

Dates for your Diary

23rd January - Chinese New Year
(Year of the Dragon)
25th January - Burns Night
13th - 17th February - Half Term

From The Team

All Change!

To help improve morning arrivals, we would like to introduce a staggered arrival procedure and propose opening our doors from 8.55am to 9.05am. Hopefully this will create a calmer atmosphere for the children and break down the queues at the pegs. For the afternoon children, it's a new way in altogether! As you know the school has begun to serve hot food in the hall at lunchtime and service begins promptly at midday. We have come to the agreement with the school that it will be safer for our Playgroup children to be walked round the outside of the KS1 building in to Playgroup when they arrive at 12.10pm. This is on a trial basis only so let's give it a couple of weeks and tell us what you think. Thank you in advance for your patience and co-operation as we settle in to our all day service. Don't forget this is your Playgroup, so if there is something you don't like, or an idea you'd like to suggest then we'd love to hear from you.

Policies & Procedures

Every half term we review a selection of our policies & procedures. These state how Playgroup operates overall as well as how we run on a day-to-day basis. Feedback is welcome from everyone. This half term we are reviewing: Record Keeping Policy; Confidentiality & Client Access To Records Policy; Induction Procedure and Security & Safety of Children Policy

Cold and Fffrosty!

As always, the children are at the heart of our practice and by identifying their needs as well as their interests, we are able to give a focus to each half term that will best support their learning and development.



This half term we are going to focus on the area of learning called Personal, Social and Emotional Development as we need to continue to give support to those children who are still working towards their sense of trust and belonging to the group as well as help our new families settle in. We are going to do this by giving plenty of one to one support, reward stickers, behaviour stars and positive meaningful praise. The resources, activities and experiences on offer will be based around the seasonal cold weather and include the exploration of the Antarctic and Arctic Worlds, Inuit role play with our igloo, expressing individual creative flair by making snowflakes, icicles, decorating biscuits and reading plenty of stories about polar bears and penguins!

Main Links to the EYFS: Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Dispositions and attitudes - is about how children become interested, excited and motivated about their learning
- Self-care - is about how children gain a sense of self-respect and concern for their own personal hygiene and care and how they develop independence
- Making relationships - is about the importance of children forming good relationships with others and working alongside others companionably

Doe, ray, me, far, sew, la, teal!

Singing is a gymnasium for the body and soul - not only does it help build confidence and self-esteem, it can also increase capacity for self-expression. Songsheets are handed out at the start of every half term so you can join in and continue your child's learning at home - enjoy!

Lending Library

We continue to offer our Lending Library to help promote and encourage reading. Don't forget, introducing children to books at an early age is one of the best gifts an adult can give! Please help us maintain our wonderful library, by ensuring books are returned so they can be shared with others. Thank you.

Father Inclusion

Are you a dad, granddad, stepdad or uncle who regularly does the Playgroup 'run'? Do you feel welcome, included and comfortable at the setting? If you have anything to share with us, we would love to hear from you. Or perhaps you would like to stay and play to find out a little bit more of what goes on at Playgroup? Just let us know when, it will be a pleasure to have you on board!

Rainy Play

So we can encourage plenty of outdoors play, please ensure your child has appropriate wet weather clothing and footwear. Thank you.

Need to Reach Us?

If you need to get hold of us in an emergency, please note the mobile number to call is 07957 364149. For all other enquiries regarding sessions and fees, please continue to liaise with our Administrator Dawn on 01992 304477. Thank you.

Nursery Applications

Children born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 will be able to join Hertfordshire nursery schools and classes from September 2012. You will soon receive your own unique log in details and with these you will be able to apply online for places from Monday 20th February until Sunday 1st April 2012. All you need is an email account and internet access. More information to follow.

Winter's Here

With the winter weather, comes more layers! Please can you ensure all your child's clothing including hats & scarves, etc., are clearly marked with their names to help us when getting them ready for home time. Thank you.

Playgroup Dates 2012

Spring Term

Friday 6th Jan - Friday 30th March 2012
(Thursday 5th Jan - Welcome Meeting)

Spring Half Term

Monday 13th Feb - Friday 17th Feb 2012

Easter Break

Monday 2nd April - Friday 13th April 2012

Summer Term

Monday 16th April - Friday 20th July 2012

Summer Half Term

Monday 4th June - Friday 7th June

May Day Bank Holiday - Monday 7th May
Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 4th June



Reg. Charity No.
1134075

Bengo Playgroup is a limited company registered in England and Wales under company number 7003718

Its registered office is Bengo Primary School, The Avenue, Bengo, Hertfordshire SG14 3DX

From the Administrator

The fees for the 1st half term are now due, please pay as soon as possible or contact me on 01992 304477.

From Rachel our Fundraising Chair

Just a reminder that The Annual Playgroup Quiz will be held on Friday 9 March at the Scout Hut, Port Vale, 7.30pm for 8pm start. Tickets are £8.50 per head and the evening will include the quiz, a meal and a raffle at the end of the night. Bring your own drink & glasses. The money raised will all go directly to the playgroup to buy new equipment. Last year's quiz was a huge success and everyone who came will tell you what a good night it was. If you would like a table booking form please text or email me on 07906 610303 or rachel@ogieronline.com. I will be grateful for any raffle donations eg wine, unwanted Christmas presents, etc and also help with setting up & tidying away on the evening.

I would also love to hear from you if you would like to get involved in fundraising for the playgroup. All the money raised from the various fundraising events throughout the year goes directly to buying new equipment for the children.

A message from our Chairperson

Farewell to Dawn, Playgroup Administrator

At the end of this term, we'll sadly be saying farewell to our wonderful administrator, Dawn Aldrich. Dawn has been an important part of the team here for over 6 years and will be missed! But we wish her all the best in future ventures. If you, or someone you know is interested in this part time position, please see the website for full details. The close date for applications is Fri 27th January.

Last few spaces available for Spring & Summer term

We're very excited to be open mornings and afternoons now, it's the beginning of a new era for playgroup! The last few remaining spaces are being filled as we speak, so if you would like to make any changes to your child's attendance, or know someone who would like to join us, just give Dawn a call. Don't forget we take children from 2 years 5 months until reception age. So spread the word. All enquiries should be directed to Dawn on 01992 304477

Sinead