



Reg. Charity No.
1134075

Bengeo Playgroup
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NEWSLETTER – April 2010

Spring is in the air and there’s certainly a lot of excitement around playgroup! I’m sure you’ve all noticed splashes of colour and sparkle when you’ve entered the children’s world in the playgroup. A special word of thanks from the parents and committee go to the dedicated staff who’ve tirelessly worked to make Playgroup a memorable and comfortable experience for our children.

TERM DATES

Summer Term (first half)	Wednesday 21st April – Friday 28 th May
Summer Half Term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
Summer Term (second half)	Monday 7 th June – Thursday 22 nd July
Playgroup Closed (inset day)	Friday 23 rd July

REMINDERS FOR YOUR DIARY!

Monday, 3 rd May	May Bank Holiday
Thursday 6 th May	General Election – school and Playgroup closed as venue will be used as a polling station
Saturday 8 th May	Playgroup’s Spring Fun Day Fundraising Event

POLLING STATION DATE

Gordon Brown has finally announced the date of the General Election as Thursday 6th May and subsequently HCC has confirmed with the school that it will be used as a Polling Station, which means both the school and Playgroup will be closed on that day. Dawn, our Administrator, will reimburse families accordingly.

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 OUR PLAYGROUP LEADER

All Change!

This term starts with a splash of colour and a room makeover following the arrival of new tables, chairs and a wonderful new 'children of the world' circle carpet. An extremely BIG thank you to everyone involved in the January Quiz Night where the funds were raised to make it all possible. A makeover is just what the room needed and we hope you love it as much as we do! Take a look at the photos on the news section of our website.

New Snack Time

Also new for this term is our very first Snack Station! We will be introducing a 'rolling' snack time to the children to allow for more continuous free flow play and to give the children the choice as to when they wish to stop for a drink and snack. This new system will maintain our current good practice of hand washing before eating and provide quiet time for conversation and reading, but at the same time it will improve the routine for the benefit of the children.

I'm thirsty!

The new designated area for the snack station with milk cartons and a fruit basket will also allow for individual water bottles. Please feel free to let your child come to Playgroup with a water bottle, which they can leave at the snack station and access at any time during play. Just remember to clearly label the 'bottle' with your child's name and water only please - no juice or squash!

Self-registration

Self-registration is being introduced this term – please help your child find their photo name badge from the table and stick it onto the green felt screen. Self-registration gives the children a sense of personal identity and belonging to the group as well as preparing those children for the transition to nursery, where Mrs Parker also encourages self-registration.

Bugs In The Garden

Continuing with and building on from last term's theme 'In The Garden' comes 'Bugs In The Garden' where the children are going to be given plenty of real life experiences to explore and investigate the features of living things such as slugs, snails and other creepy crawlies found at the bottom of the garden. Children will be encouraged to describe and talk about what they see so they can begin to learn about change and patterns, similarities and differences and question how and why things work.

Lifecycles

After much waiting, the frogs have finally produced plenty of frogspawn, which are settling down in their new 'home' - our very own make-shift 'pond' in the courtyard. In addition our pot of tiny caterpillars have arrived and

will be on display in the live butterfly house. These wonderful real life experiences will allow the children to show care and concern for living things as well as continue with their learning about growth and changes over time.

Tesco School Vouchers

Please, please, please tell all family members and friends to save their Tesco vouchers for Bengeo Playgroup! We are trying hard to reach our target of 22,700 to buy a computer with early years software for the children. Last vouchers will be issued in store on Sunday 9th May.

FROM SAM OUR FUNDRAISING CHAIR

Fun Day – Saturday 8 May – 1 till 4pm

As you will be aware the Family Fun Day is being held on 8th May 1-4pm. Watch out for posters giving details of all the great stalls, games and activities we will have on the day. Your support is much needed as this is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we are hoping to make-over the Playgroup playground with the proceeds. In particular we want to buy a giant umbrella to provide some much needed shade from the summer sun.

If you are aware of any companies who may be willing to offer corporate sponsorship please let Sam West know on 07832 383920, leave a message for her at the Playgroup or contact her by email at fundraising@bengeoplaygroup.org.uk.

We are still needing volunteers for on the day so please add your name to the list by the sign in sheet if you are able to help at all. Don't forget to return your raffle tickets before the day and let us know if you would like anymore to sell (a list of prizes will be displayed at playgroup soon). We are also asking for donations of filled jars, homemade cakes, bottled goods, toys, soft toys and books in the week running up to the fun day. If you know of any commercial stallholders who may be interested in a pitch please contact Sonja on 07917 224923, there are still a few available.

Look forward to seeing you there! Most all please tell your friends and bring your families on the day.

The fundraising committee is always in need of new members and if you are able to offer any help please contact Sam on 07832 383920 or via email at fundraising@bengeoplaygroup.org.uk.