

Newsletter June 2011

Thank You

A local builder, **P Cresswell Builders**, has kindly donated **£270** to Playgroup. We have used the money to buy a builders play set for the children.

We would like to thank P Cresswell Builders for this fabulous donation, something our children can enjoy for years to come.



Fundraising Update

Fees and government funding helps to pay for Playgroup's staff and hall rent etc. For everything else e.g. toys/ paint/ playdough etc we have to fundraise, get donations or apply for grants.

This year we had a fundraising target of £3000.

We have smashed that target, raising **£4066.37** so far. I would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make each fundraising event go so well and I would like to thank all the Playgroup parents, grandparents and friends who helped support us this year.

Amanda

Vacancy

We are currently advertising for Relief Staff at Playgroup. If a staff member is away e.g. on a course, then we ring the people on file as relief staff to see if they can cover that shift.

If you are interested in joining our team, please ask Gale for an application form. A full Job Description is available. Interviews will take place this term. Successful applicants will have to complete a CRB check and provide good references.

Injuries

If your child arrives at playgroup with an injury, could you please let a member of staff know.





A Message From Gale, Playgroup Manager



Last term we asked the children what they would like to play with and learn about this term, and so this half term's plans are based around their interests and requests.

Week 1

Under the sea / at the seaside i

Week 2

At the station p



Week 3

Dinosaur / fairy land j

Week 4

Toy story d



Week 5

Pirates / knights and castles r

Week 6

Jungle v

Week 7

At home & school n



Please support your children's learning at home by expanding on their interests. Children love to pretend and they learn from their play. Your interactions with them are highly valuable to their learning and development. At playgroup, we will be exploring concepts such as alive/extinct, fantasy/ real, journeys and travel, habitats and environments.

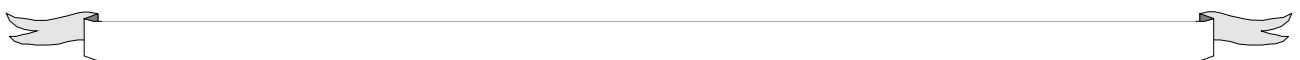
This term we are introducing the 'I Can..' tree. Please either write a message at home, or jot one down on a post-it note at playgroup, recording something special that your child has done or achieved so it can be shared with the rest of the group and celebrated. (it doesn't have to be a long note!)



Congratulations

Congratulations to our Playgroup Supervisor, Karen, who has completed her NVQ level 4.

Well done Karen. Thank you for all your hard work completing this course, which will be a great benefit to our Playgroup Children.



Duty Rota

As part of the partnership between Playgroup and our parents, all parents and grandparents are invited to come and help out in session. We spoke to a new Duty Parent, Nicola Ogilvie, to find out more:

What made you decide to become a duty parent?

I saw it as a good opportunity to get involved with playgroup. A chance to interact with Harry in a "toddler" environment. I am able to watch him learn and play. Also its a great way of getting to know the staff and Harry's keyworker.

How many duties do you do during a 6 week term?

Harry attends two sessions a week, so I need to attend two sessions per half term (with one reserve session, so I need to be available if a duty parent is unable to make their session).

What do you do on your duty day?

A bit of everything!!. This could range from making the staff and myself a cup of coffee, playing with the children with playdoh, perhaps having my hair cut and styled by five children!, reading to a small group, keeping an eye on the children during outside play or setting up/helping dismantle equipment outside. I have plenty of opportunity to play with my son, mixing with his friends.

How do you benefit by being a duty parent?

I really enjoy being a duty parent, its a great insight into what Harry learns and provides an understanding of the structure of the session. I am able to share Harry's experiences and discuss what I have seen with my husband. Its an opportunity to "get messy" with Harry and take part in activities we don't always do often at home, e.g painting, playing with foam or making crafts.

Was it hard/expensive filling in the paperwork to become a duty parent?

It's a straight forward and easy process, with no expense. You will need to complete a CRB form (which playgroup check and send off for you). A member of staff assists you in filling the form.

What would you say to a parent or grandparent thinking about doing duties at Playgroup?

Give it a try!. Its a great experience. You learn so much about what your child is doing and are part of the atmosphere of the setting. Harry enjoys it when I am around, showing me things and he's keen for me to play and learn with him. The staff make you feel very welcome. Its a positive experience with lots to see and do!.

If you would like to find out more about the Duty Parent scheme, please speak to a member of staff or email Vicki on breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk



What lovely weather we have been having and with this in mind, please can you apply sunblock to your children before they attend playgroup in the mornings/afternoons of sunny days. Outdoor play takes place every day, weather permitting.



This is especially important for those children who stop all day with lunch club and those with really sun-sensitive skin.

We are very happy to re-apply sunblock for your child during the day. Just fill out a permission slip (please ask any member of staff for one) and hand their sunblock in in a clear plastic bag with their name on it to our manager Gale, or supervisor Karen.

It is also good for each child to come with their own sunhat. Remember to write their name in it. We do have a few spare hats at Playgroup but having their own hat ensures a good fit.

Suggestion box

Just a reminder that we have a suggestion box on the table in the vestibule, so any ideas or feedback. Alternatively you can also email your thoughts to breaston-playgroup@hotmail.co.uk

Development Folder

The last week of every term is an open folder week. All children's folders are updated to reflect all their new experiences and capabilities by this week. However, you can look through your child's folder at any time, not just open folder week. Please ask a member of staff for details.

Parent Mail

Would you prefer to get your newsletters and information emailed straight to you? You will be helping the environment and helping Playgroup too.

To sign up please just email breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Your email address will not appear on the emails and will not be shared with other companies etc.

Important Dates

Monday 6th June: Playgroup re-opens.

Monday 13th June: Inset Day—Playgroup will be closed.

Thursday 21st July: Morning session is open as usual, but lunch club and afternoon sessions are closed due to Leavers Celebration. Posters with more details to follow. Summer Holidays begin.

Monday 5th September: Inset Day—Playgroup is closed

Tuesday 6th September: Playgroup re-opens

Friday 21st October: Playgroup closes at end of day for half term.

Sunday 30th October: Playgroup's Scary Party

Monday 12th September, Playgroup's Harvest Festival @ St Michael's Church

Saturday 26th November: Playgroup's Christmas Fayre

Tuesday 13th December: Playgroup's Christmas Carols @ St Michael's Church

Tuesday 20th December: Playgroup's Christmas Party during session time.

Tuesday 20th December: Playgroup closes at end of day for Xmas holidays.

