



# Newsletter September 2011



## Welcome Back

Welcome back to Playgroup, I hope you all had a wonderful holiday, and a warm welcome to all our new starters.

We have a busy time ahead of us, with our Harvest Festival, Scary Party, Christmas Service, Christmas Fayre and Christmas Party all to come before the end of the year. All the dates you need for your diaries will be at the back of this newsletter. If you are free to lend a hand at any of our events, please do let me know as your help is most appreciated.

I wanted to remind everyone that Playgroup's policies and procedures are out to view at any time. The details of the committee and our contact details are in the front of the folder. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions for fundraising or any ideas for Playgroup. You can also email [breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk) and your email will be re-directed to the committee member who can best help you.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new member of staff Sarah Batten-Plowright. Sarah is our new Relief Playgroup Assistant and will cover for any staff absences. Sarah has her level 4 NVQ and is working towards her degree. She is a well known Playgroup mum, childminder and she also runs Young Church at St Michaels. We are also advertising for another three relief staff members, as relief staff only work when it is convenient for Playgroup and for them. Further details can be found later in this newsletter, on a poster at Playgroup and also on our website.

This term we are going to be working on updating our website [breastonpreschoolplaygroup.org.uk](http://breastonpreschoolplaygroup.org.uk). You can already see copies of these newsletters and the full welcome pack online. What else would you like to see? Please email through any suggestions to [breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk).

Amanda



## **Important Information**

If your child arrives at playgroup with an injury (bumps, cuts, grazes etc), could you please let a member of staff know.

If your child is going to be absent from playgroup, due to illness or a holiday, please call us on 01332 874832. If we do not hear from you we will have to log the absence as unexplained. Derbyshire County Council has advised all pre-school settings that they will remove or reduce funding for any child that has too many unexplained absences. If you have any questions about this procedure, please speak to Gale or Karen.



If you would like to become a duty parent, helping out at Playgroup, please remember to hand your completed CRB forms into Gale. You will not be able to help out or receive the reduced session rate until your CRB is processed. If you have any questions about becoming a duty parent, please ask a member of staff or contact Vicki Whitt on [breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk).

And finally, can we please remind everyone that pushchairs are not allowed in the Church vestibule, as it is our main fire exit.



## A Message From Gale, Playgroup Manager



WELCOME to Ben, Freya, Hayden, Millie, Freddie, Francesca, Olivia, Amelia, Beatrice, Lexi, Benjamin, Winnie, Imogen, Daisy, Charlie, Christopher, Ciara, Dylan, Eleanor, Zara, Jake, Ethan Hall and Ethan Sewell.

The letters/sounds for the term will be a,b,c,d,e,f & g!

Our area of interest this term is 'All About Me':

W/B 6th Sept: all about me a

W/B 12th Sept: all about me and my body b

W/B 19th Sept: my family c

W/B 26th Sept: my family cont. d

W/B 3rd Oct: my house e

W/B 10th Oct: pets f

W/B 17th Oct: my world g



Examples of what we'll be learning about are: what we look like, the things we like to do, what our body can do and how to keep healthy. Also different types of houses, what our house is like, who is in our families, what type of animal can be pets and who has pets, and the world in which we live. Other cultures and customs will also be discussed throughout.

You may like to talk about our these ideas at home. Each day we have show and tell, where any child can bring in items to share with us. Where possible, please try to encourage your child to choose items that begin with the sound of the letter of the week. Whilst we do talk about the letter name of the letter of the week, we mainly focus on the letter sound. If you would like to find out more about this please speak to a member of staff.

### 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. It would be your duty to support the Manager, Supervisor and the team of staff in providing a stimulating, varied and challenging learning environment for the children, taking consideration to their safety and well being at all times.

You would provide high quality care, interactions and learning opportunities for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Experience of working with children aged birth to five and understanding their development needs would be essential. A good childcare qualification would be desirable.

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 in October. Successful applicants will have to complete a CRB check and provide good references.



## **Harvest Festival.**



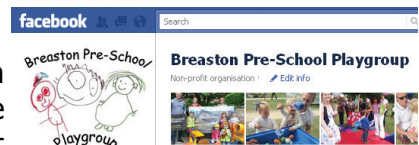
Playgroup's Harvest Festival will be taking place on Monday 12th September at St Michael's Church, with the service starting at 10:30am.

If your child is in Playgroup for a Monday morning session, then we will walk them across to the church. You can either come to Playgroup to walk over with us or meet us at the church. If your child is not due to be at Playgroup for that session they can still join in, please meet us at the church. All the family is welcome to come.

As in previous years, we will be collecting tinned food for charity. Please bring any donations to Playgroup.

### **Keeping you up to date!**

We now have over 50 'likes' on Facebook for the Breaston Pre-School Playgroup Page, but we'd love more of you to like the page so we can keep you regularly up to date with events at Playgroup, as well as other activities and events locally that we think may be of interest to you.



Social media is also now an important way for us to promote Playgroup, so why not suggest the page to your friends and family! Please feel free to add your own comments to the Page Wall, we love to hear from you, and do let us know if there is other information you'd like to see added to the page. Please let Caroline Stalker (carolinelucystalker@me.com) have your ideas and comments on our Facebook page.

### **Spreading the word**

You may have seen the fabulous articles that appeared about Playgroup in the Long Eaton Chronicle, Long Eaton Extra and Inside 72 magazines earlier on in the summer. We are thrilled that more people know about our lovely setting, and do look out for more articles in the future! Thanks go to those papers and magazines for their support. If you know of other publications that you think we should contact who might be interested in reporting on Playgroup then please do let Caroline Stalker (carolinelucystalker@me.com) have the details.

### **Come and Play**

We only have a small number of spaces available at Playgroup. As children no longer start school in January in Derbyshire anymore, it is unlikely we will have many free spaces later in the year. If you are considering taking on extra sessions, please speak to our Membership Secretary Maria White (Honor's mum) on 01332 872875.

### **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](mailto:breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk).

Your email address will not appear on the emails and will not be shared with other companies etc. Grandparents and other family members can sign up for this service too.



## Scary Party

Come to our party! It won't really be very scary, just an excuse to dress up in party clothes or fancy dress, have party food and play games. Sunday 30th October, 4pm to 6pm at Playgroup



Ticket prices and other details to follow: look out for the posters at Playgroup.



## 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 [breastonplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:breastonplaygroup@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.

## Important Dates

Playgroup follows the term dates for Firfield school.

**Monday 5th September: Inset Day—Playgroup is closed for an inset day**

Tuesday 6th September: Playgroup re-opens

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

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

Sunday 30th October: Playgroup's Scary Party

Monday 31st October: Playgroup re-opens.

Saturday 26th November: Playgroup's Christmas Fayre

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

Wednesday 14th December: Provisional date for Christmas Party.

Friday 16th December: Playgroup closes at end of day for Xmas holidays

**19th & 20th December are inset days.**

Wednesday 4th January : Playgroup re-opens

Friday 10th February: Playgroup closes at end of day for half term

Monday 20th February: Playgroup re-opens

**Friday 30th March: Playgroup closes at end of day for Easter Holidays**

**\*\*30th March may be an inset day, not confirmed yet\*\***

Monday 16th April: Playgroup re-opens

Friday 1st June: Playgroup closes at end of day for half term

**Monday 11th June: Inset Day.**

Tuesday 12th June: Playgroup re-opens

Friday 20th July: Playgroup closes at end of day for Summer holidays.