

## Croft Playgroup Newsletter

### April and May 2025



Thinking about

**“How we want the world to be”**

focusing on:

- ❖ Being listened to and feeling valued,
- ❖ Being encouraged and allowed to make our own choices,
- ❖ Valuing each other’s similarities and differences,
- ❖ Understanding how to be healthy in mind and body,
- ❖ Being independent.

#### Contact details

*We’re always pleased to hear from you*

**Playgroup tel:** 01793 512882

**Website:** [croftplaygroup.co.uk](http://croftplaygroup.co.uk)

**Email:** [admin@croftplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:admin@croftplaygroup.co.uk)

**Managers:** [manager@croftplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:manager@croftplaygroup.co.uk)

**Find us on Facebook too:** Croft Playgroup, Swindon

We hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter break and look forward to welcoming you all back for the term ahead!

## Being Healthy!

- During term 5 we begin to explore the theme of 'Being Healthy'.
- Through play and circle time sessions we think and talk about how we can be healthy in mind and body.
- We use picture books to help us reflect on and celebrate our similarities and differences, and ways that we can treat each other with kindness and respect.
- We will continue to celebrate the varied languages that our playgroup families speak and will collate key phrases in language books for each room. We hope to focus on Telegu and Bulgarian this term. ***If you can help us learn some key phrases in these languages, please let us know.*** We're also delighted that one of our parents is going to come in regularly to teach the children some words in Spanish.
- Learning about the cultures and practices of our playgroup families is another way to value each other. In previous years we have enjoyed learning about festivals that families have celebrated. ***Please let us know if there are celebrations coming up that you take part in as a family which we can learn about at playgroup.***
- We will also focus on how we care for our bodies including caring for our teeth. ***If you are a dentist, dental nurse, doctor or nurse and would be prepared to come in to talk to us about helping children to care for their bodies and teeth please let us know!***
- We use large 'floor books' to record comments and ideas from circle time discussions.
- The week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May will be '**Walk to Playgroup week**' during which we encourage everyone to walk, scoot or cycle to playgroup. We will think and talk about how we keep our bodies healthy and the value and effects of exercise. You can follow this link to find out more about the initiative: [About Us | Living Streets](#)
- Walk to Playgroup week will finish with a Sponsored Walk/Obstacle course in the garden. The children will be able to tackle different obstacle courses and activities as they complete circuits of the garden. This is a great way to further emphasise the importance of movement and exercise. More info to follow.

## Responsibility and risk taking to boost esteem and camaraderie

- As part of their play (and often specifically part of outdoor play) the children will take bigger risks. It is essential for their physical and fully rounded development that they are able to do this.
- They also need to move and climb to develop their core strength which will prepare them for more sitting, listening and focused fine motor tasks as they progress at school.
- Our support of the children is also informed by what we know about the importance of reflex integration, postural control and opportunities to move. We will put leaflets about 'Supporting development with movement' in the foyer, which you are welcome to take home if you'd like to find out more.
- We will continue to challenge the children to think and explore as they use resources both indoors and outside. The use of tools will continue to encourage them to fine tune their coordination, control, communication and problem solving skills.
- General risk taking and striving to achieve new skills is an essential part of learning and can provide a valuable boost to children's self-esteem as they discover what they are capable of. However, it can result in more injuries. Children usually work within their levels of confidence and try new things only when they feel comfortable and capable of doing so.
- We will, of course, always try to ensure the children's safety and ensure that the risks are carefully managed and discussed with them. If you would like to read more about play and risk, there is a

useful pdf document on the Health and Safety Executive website: [Microsoft Word - Document2 \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/microsoft-word-document2)

- We also encourage the children to help us in taking on responsibility for 'jobs' around playgroup. This can involve helping adults to check the garden is clear and ready for play (the children always enjoy wielding litter pickers!), helping to sweep the floors, wipe the tables, thinking of exciting activity ideas and resources we might need. Children often enjoy a role of responsibility and a feeling that they are helping to do a 'grown up' job; those who are due to start school in September are often particularly ready to take on extra responsibility.

### Keep talking!

- Listening to your children and talking to them about what they are doing or interested in is a vital way to support language development, understanding and communication.
- Children are learning constantly and picking up what is being said around them. The more you are able to spend time sharing stories or activities or talking and listening to your child as you spend time together, the more you will support their speech and language.
- If your child mispronounces words, the best response is to repeat back what they've said with the correct pronunciation; asking them to repeat it correctly can be embarrassing and make children more likely to clam up.
- The best way to help children who stammer is to be patient and give them time to speak. Transitions and anxiety can be a trigger, so adult reassurance and spending time taking their lead in play can help.
- If you'd like further support or information, please feel welcome to pop in to see us.

### Events this term

It is important that we seek to provide a variety of enriching experiences for the children, so in the term ahead we have various things in the pipeline which include those listed below:

- **Zumba** sessions will continue every Thursday at 9:30am starting on the 18<sup>th</sup> April;
  - **A talk about frogs** on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 10am
  - **Forest School sessions with Neil from Wild Inspired** on 9:30-11:45am Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May
  - **A Sponsored walk/obstacle course event** to promote exercise and healthy bodies the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> May (more information to follow);
  - **Oak Room Library Visit** on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May (*Willow room will go in July*)
  - **Parents reading week** - come in and foster our love of reading by sharing a favourite book with the children.
  - **Smiles photography to playgroup** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May (more information to follow)
- Where possible we try to rotate activities across the year so that all children have the opportunity to experience them. If you are concerned that your child will miss out on an event, you are welcome to bring them in and stay with them so that they can participate. Do let us know if you'd like to do this.

### Spring and Summer Weather

- Please remember to send the children in with appropriate footwear to cope with playing both inside and outside, including use of the climbing frames!
- Please ensure that the children have had sun cream applied before they arrive at playgroup; we will assume that this has been done. We supply Ambre Solaire Sensitive sun cream for children, factor 50 and will reapply throughout the day. If your child needs a different sun cream due to skin sensitivity or allergies, please let us know.
- We will supply the children with their own individual summer hats which are named, washed frequently and kept in their drawers. ***If you prefer your child to bring their own hat, please ensure it is clearly labelled.***

## Dates for the term ahead.....

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>**Term Starts**</b>	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Weekly Zumba sessions</b>	<b>9.15 to 10.15am 30 minute sessions for each room</b>
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Show and Tell</b>	<i>Children in on that day can bring in something to show or tell us about something special.</i>
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bank holiday</b>	<b>Playgroup is closed.</b>
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Oak Room Library Visit</b>	<b>9:30 until 10:30</b> leaving playgroup as close to 9am as possible. Parent helpers required!
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Gemma (Species Recovery Officer for Natural England &amp; Chair of Wiltshire Amphibian and Reptile Group) to talk about frogs</b>	<b>10am</b> Gemma will come to talk to the children in both rooms about frogs
Week commencing Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Parent's Reading Week</b>	<b>10.45am &amp; 2.45pm</b> Please email the office to let us know when you'd like to come in.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Forest School session with Neil from Wild Inspired</b>	<b>9am to 11:45am</b> Neil will lead sessions in the garden for children who are interested.
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Bring a family member to preschool day</b>	<b>10am until 11am and 1:30pm until 2:30pm</b> *for children who are usually in on this day*
Week beginning 19 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Walk to Playgroup week</b>	<i>Families are encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to playgroup all week.</i>
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Smiles photography to playgroup</b>	<i>More details to follow</i>
	<b>Forest School session with Neil from Wild Inspired</b>	<b>9am to 11:45am</b> Neil will lead sessions in the garden for children who are interested.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>6pm</b> at Playgroup ( <i>all welcome</i> )
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	<b>Sponsored walk</b> <b>**Last day of Term**</b>	<b>10am</b> at playgroup <i>Children will complete several laps of an obstacle course in the garden</i>

**Please remember to label everything that belongs to the children so we are better able to keep track of everyone's belongings.**

***As always if there is anything you would like to talk more about please feel welcome to make contact in the usual ways.***