



Croft Playgroup Newsletter

November & December 2021



Thinking about
“How we want the world to be”
 focusing on:

- ❖ Learning to share
- ❖ Understanding right and wrong
- ❖ Beginning to understand that actions have consequences
 - ❖ Learning about how to keep ourselves safe

Contact details

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Find us on Facebook too: Croft Playgroup, Swindon

Dates for the term ahead:

Monday 1 st Nov	Beginning of term	Sessions continue as normal.
Every Tuesday	Zumba	Sessions continue for both rooms.
Wednesday 3 rd Nov	Committee Meeting	7pm at playgroup <i>All parents and carers welcome to attend.</i>
Friday 12 th Nov	Oak room trip to Old Town library	9:30 to 10:30am Parent helpers needed please!
Friday 19 th Nov	Willow room trip to Old Town library	9:30 to 10:30am Parent helpers needed please!
Week commencing Monday 29 th Nov	Parent's Reading Week	11:45 and 2:45pm Please email to let us know if you would like to come in to read a story at the above times on any day during the week.
Week commencing Monday 6 th December	Parent Meetings week	An opportunity to meet with your child's keyworker and review their play and learning. <i>More details to follow.</i>
Tuesday 7 th December	Bring a family member to preschool day	10am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm Please email to let us know if you would like to come in to play.
Tuesday 14 th December	Christmas singalong	4pm in the garden at playgroup. Songs around the Christmas tree followed by a drink and a mince pie. <i>More details to follow.</i>
Friday 17 th Dec	**Last day of term**	
Tues 4 th and Wed 5 th Jan	Training days for staff	Playgroup remains closed, training for staff only.
Thurs 6 th Jan	Term starts	Normal sessions resume.

Celebrations - Please remember to let us know if there are celebrations coming up that you take part in as a family which we can learn about at playgroup.

Reminders:

- *It's getting cold...please remember to send your child with a warm coat and suitably equipped for playing outside in all weathers layers are a good idea and we have all in ones which the children can use.*
- *If your child is due to start school in Sept 2022 the deadline to apply for school places is Jan 15th 2022.*

The values we are focusing on this term are: learning to share, understanding right and wrong, beginning to understand that actions have consequences, learning about how to keep ourselves safe.

These concepts are challenging for children and when we help them to manage sharing or relating to others, we always acknowledge, name and empathise with the feelings that are inevitably behind any conflict or angry behaviour. Children's brains and bodies are working hard all the time, responding and adapting to cope with social interactions, the demands that others make on them as well as learning to express themselves. These skills will underpin their future learning and successful interactions in the wider world.

Children are capable of quite astounding honesty and reflection when given time to express themselves. We encourage sharing, kindness and reflection on how they and others might feel, but we understand that it is tiring and hard work. It is also important to have realistic expectations and to give children time to mature. As adults we role model words and ways to relate so that they learn by our example. We also continue to read stories and lead discussions which relate to these values during our circle time sessions.

The progress children make at playgroup can sometimes lead to a deterioration in behaviour at home. Their immature brain systems simply can't maintain the same degree of control all day and so regression at home (where they feel most comfortable) is common, though not much fun for parents! They may need more patience from you, more quiet time, more one to one time or simply time to snuggle up with you. If behaviour or development is something you'd like to talk more about then please let Michelle or Helen know. We have some lovely books including: 'The Gentle Discipline Book' by Sarah Ockwell-Smith and 'What every parent needs to know – Love, nurture and play with your child' by Margot Sunderland, which we find useful and which you are welcome to borrow should you wish, do let us know.

We also hope to invite more people who work to keep us safe into the setting to talk to the children, so if you work in this field (doctors, nurses, firefighters, police, paramedics etc..) and you'd be happy to come in to speak to the children please let us know.

We are very proud of how our September starters have settled in. Hopefully you will all have had an opportunity to reflect with your child's key worker about how they have settled and to discuss anything else about their play and learning. The children have done brilliantly in acclimatising to the people and environment at playgroup. They all settle at different rates and we know it can be hard not to worry if your child seems to be taking longer. We are all different and that is true of children too. Some are naturally more independent or extrovert and enthusiastic about getting out into the world and interacting with their peers,

others are more introvert and need to recharge more at home with family. Being at home more during lockdown, without the ability to get out and about as much as we would ordinarily, may also have had an effect. We will continue to work with you to support the children and adjust our strategies to help them feel more comfortable. They will all get there with our collaborative and loving support.

Kiddizoom cameras This term we will send home our cameras with two children every Friday to use and return the following week. Please support your child to take photographs of home, family and any activities you may have done. We will load these onto our digital frame in the rooms, which the children love to look at. It is another lovely way of connecting playgroup and home. ***Please also remember to email or send in a family photo that we can display in the rooms.***

Additional events this term...

- **Parent's Information Week** (Week beginning Monday 6th December) This is an opportunity to meet with your child's keyworker to reflect on their progress and learning and to see their learning journeys. We will email you with suggested appointments soon.
- **A trip to Old Town Library!** We are delighted to finally be able to visit again for a story telling session and to allow the children to enjoy the books at the library. **Oak room will visit on Friday 12th November** and **Willow Room will visit on Friday 19th November.** We need lots of adult help to enable us to safely walk the children up to the library and back so we would love to hear from you if you are able to come along and helps us. **Thank you!** We will plan more trips on different days throughout next year.
- **Christmas celebration** This year we would like to try something a little different. You may have noticed a real Christmas tree which we have planted in the garden. We would love to invite you to join us in the garden for Christmas songs around the tree followed by a hot chocolate and mince pie or biscuit afterwards on **Tuesday 14th Dec at 4pm.** We will learn a selection of Christmas songs with the children which we can all then sing together. If you have any favourite songs that are unique to your culture relating to Christmas or Winter, we would love to hear from you; the more we can make such events relevant to children's home lives the better. Also if you play an instrument and feel that you could accompany us we would love to hear from you too. We are investigating the possibility of running lantern making workshops so that we could have our own lanterns to admire while we sing. If you have any ideas or comments, then please feel welcome to make contact in the usual ways.