

ASPIN PARK EARLY YEARS GROUP
NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2015

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to all our new starters. We look forward to lots of happy times together.

Library

New members may not be aware that we have a lending library. One book at a time may be borrowed and please send a named book bag for your child.

Key Person

We operate a key person system at Playgroup. Practitioners each have a special responsibility for a group of children and ensure that each child's records are kept up to date. Learning journey books will contain photographs, children's work and practitioner observations, noting at what level the children are working. An On Track form is completed every term and this will eventually be sent to school. However, all staff will continue to work with all the children each session. Key groups are identified by colour- red, green, blue and yellow, all groups are displayed in the playroom. Key persons will ask you to help in completing records. All records are available for you to see at any time, and learning journey books will be sent home every half term for you to look at, add too and comment on. There is a parents page on the back cover and will would ask you for your comments.

Parents Evening

We plan to hold a parent's evening. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's key person, and find out more about what we do at Playgroup. We realise there is little opportunity for you to talk to staff or ask questions when dropping off and picking up children as it is always a very busy time. If there is anything you would like us to cover at the meeting let us know and we will endeavour to provide the information you need. We will send out more information nearer the time. Parents and carers are invited to stay at any session with their child whenever they would like to. If your child has been particularly interested in an activity, we will send them home with an "ask me about..." label, which will enable you to discuss what they have been doing in the setting.

Photo and Coffee Morning

This year a photographer will be visiting on Monday 26th October from about 9.30 until 1pm. There will be non messy play activities for the children while you wait. This is a good opportunity for you to get a family portrait in time for Christmas. More details to follow.

Topics

We follow the children's interests and areas of learning that need revisiting or developing, when planning activities. At the start of term we will be focusing on personal, social and emotional development (PSED), ensuring that all children settle into pre-school and get to know their Key Person and peers.

During autumn term we will be looking at changes around us, the weather and talking about the effects of autumn.

The children will be planting containers with bulbs and looking at what we can grow during the autumn and winter. We will be feeding birds and looking at birds wh visit our bird table.

In November we will be looking at colours and shapes around us and finish with Christmas crafts and our nativity play. We will also be baking and decorating a Christmas cake to serve at the nativity play.

Children are encouraged to bring items related to our topics to put on display of "Show & Tell". Family members are also welcome to come share with us any special skills or knowledge they may have or celebrations that are important to your family. Christmas parties on Thursday 17th December and break up and nativity play on Friday 18th December.

Labels

Could we also ask you to **please** label all your child's belongings, including bags, clothes and shoes? This will help your child and with around 20 children a session, help us.

Also, please send your child in shoes and clothes that are easy to fasten, to encourage your child to be as independent as possible.

Price Rise

From November 2015 all pre-school sessions will increase from £13.00 per session to £14.00 due to rising costs. Lunch will increase from £2.20 to £2.40.

Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you for all the vouchers- we had a fantastic response and we have ordered a selection of equipment.

Sessions

We still have some sessions available and some spaces at our lunch club, which operates every day except Tuesday. Lunch club is from 12.00 until 12.30 and there is a small charge of £2.20 per day (parents/carers provide lunch), rising to £2.40 in November.

Knaresborough Food Bank

As part of our harvest celebrations we have decided to donate tinned and dried goods, with a long sell by date, to the Knaresborough food bank. There will be a list of goods displayed on the door and we appreciate all donations.

Telephone Number

During session times please 'phone us on:-
07719 348754

From the end of September our telephone number will be 865865.

Web site address: www.aspinparkpre-school.co.uk

We have a list of term dates available, please ask if you require one or look on our web site.

That's all for now and wish you very good term, from everyone at playgroup.

Cheryll McGinlay 01423 861270 - 07515387188

Brenda McMillian 01423 862982

Sue, Hannah, Helen, Ann, Jackie, June, Sue, Kirsty,

Moira and Deborah.

Shoe Box Appeal

We have supported the Shoe box appeal for many years. Shoe boxes are filled with a selection of items, dependant on the child's age. The shoe box needs to be wrapped in Christmas paper and then they are sent abroad. A lot of items can be found in the home but everything needs to be in good condition. We will be handing out leaflets to explain more and will have some spare shoe boxes. Shoe boxes need to be handed in after half term, in November.

Retirement

Ann Richardson has retired after working at the setting for over 25 years, although we hope to encourage her to come in occasionally, to bake and take part in craft activities with the children. We all wish her well and thank her for her hard work and dedication to the pre-school.

Nappies

If your child is in nappies could you please send nappies and wipes in a named bag, not a carrier bag.

Children's funding

Headcount day is the 29th September so please ensure that all funding forms are completed and returned by this date.

If you pay your fees using vouchers, please confirm payment dates with Brenda.