



KINETON PLAYGROUP NEWSLETTER

07 March 2024

EASTER CELEBRATIONS

Everyone - parents, siblings and grandparents - is invited to join us at these events

Wednesday March, 1.00pm: Easter church visit, leaving Playgroup at 12.45pm. Walk with us or join us at church. **NB NEW DAY & DATE**

Thursday 21 March, 2.00pm: Easter Bonnet Parade & Easter Egg Hunt at Playgroup - tea and coffee provided, cake donations welcome! Please cross your fingers for good weather so we can use the school field.

TRAVEL TO PLAYGROUP & PARKING

Please avoid parking on or driving along the spur bit of King John's Road leading up to the school gates. If at all possible, try to avoid driving along or parking on King John's Road altogether if you are not a resident. The car parking spaces at King John's Mews are for residents only.

SIMPLE TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SLEEP

All children have problems getting to (and staying asleep) at times, perhaps following illness or events out of their usual routine, or when the clocks change and the mornings get lighter. Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUjtIyVcKq> to watch a short video for a few ideas.

PARENT MEETINGS & REVIEWS

Please remember to check your emails for dates and times offered for meeting your child's key person next week beginning 11 March. Everyone has been sent an individual email with an invitation; please let us know if you are able to attend, whether on the phone or in person. Your child's review (like a mini report) is also being sent out.

THIS WEEK AT PLAYGROUP

Celebrating Stories & Reading: Book Week

We have shared books from home and dressed up in our pyjamas or as various characters to celebrate World Book Day. The children have enjoyed welcoming 'mystery readers' for afternoon story. A digital World Book Day £1 book token is attached, which can be used in participating shops. Please follow the links on the token for details.

Other activities

Our first batch of butterfly eggs should arrive shortly, so we can watch them grow through their life cycle.

Hedge whips from the Woodland Trust have been planted along the playgroup fence, to the left inside the school gates and between Forest School and the school field. This was all arranged and the hard work done by the parent and grandparent of two lovely boys who used to come to playgroup - thank you Cath!

50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 5

50 Things is based on the simple notion that access to life-changing, fun, low-cost or no-cost experiences with your family is a great way to support and develop young children's skills and confidence. As well as being fun, and helping with ideas of things to do, this helps them become much more ready to learn. Find out more by visiting: <https://warwickshire.50thingstodo.org/app/os#!/welcome>. You can download the app to your phone.

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION: LEARNING TO BE INDEPENDENT

Throughout their time at playgroup, and especially in their last term with us, we encourage our children to develop their skills and abilities to become as confident and independent as possible. Here are some points to think about which, if encouraged at home and playgroup, will help make your child's life and transition to school a little bit easier - and save a lot of tears and frustrations in the long term! Helping a child to look after themselves is also giving them the very important message that they are a competent individual who can do things for themselves, rather than someone who is unable to do anything and always needs someone else to do things for them. Keep your expectations realistic, according to the child's age and how much they have been able to practise the skills involved, but prepare to be amazed at how quickly they develop these life skills.

- Encourage them to feed themselves - whether finger food or using cutlery and to drink from an open cup; this also helps with developing the muscles, reflexes and coordination needed for handwriting and clear speech.
- Help children to take responsibility for their belongings by asking them to carry all their own things to and from playgroup sessions, and to find them at the end of sessions, eg by allowing them to find their lunch box from the trolley on the way out. While this may also mean accepting that they sometimes leave things behind, it helps them to recognise they are able to do things for themselves.
- If children do not carry their own things into playgroup (and later to school), it makes it harder for them to remember what they have to take home. If their bags are too heavy, perhaps take some things out to make them more manageable.
- Select clothes that your child can manage to get on and off on their own (elastic waists, looser fit around the legs, zips rather than buttons, velcro rather than laces), and practice at home as part of a game - this is particularly important for getting in and out of layers at this time of year, and includes showing your child how to get their clothes ready to put back on by turning them the right way round.
- Encourage your child to manage their own clothes whenever they get dressed or undressed - they really can do a lot and a little bit of praise goes a long way! Coach them to turn their sleeves the right way round when they take clothes off, and to pile their things up in one place so they can find them again. This will be hugely useful for them but will take practice.
- Help your child recognise their own belongings. Customise belongings with a badge or patterned ribbon etc on the outside for instant recognition and for you to be able to spot quickly if they are wearing someone else's things - particularly useful for uniform items at school. Teach safe consequences and decision making. Children soon realise that they are uncomfortable if they go outside without a cardigan or jumper in cooler spring weather (although obviously watch them and don't let them get too cold at the same time).

Spring term 2024: Last day of term = Friday 22 March 2024
Summer term 2024: Monday 08 April to Friday 19 July 2024
Half term: Monday 27 to Friday 31 May 2024
Autumn term 2024: First day of term: Wednesday 04 September 2024

Holiday Club will run over the half terms, Easter holidays and first four weeks of the summer holidays (except bank holidays). Please ask for details.

