



9 March 2022

Spring updates from Playgroup Committee

Dear Parents

It's lovely to see some of the first signs of Spring! And just as Spring is a time of change and new beginnings, I have a few updates to give you about Playgroup too! Bear with me while I take you through some important info very important thank yous!

Staff changes

As you know we say goodbye to Tania this week. It has been wonderful to have Tania as Manager of the setting for the past 2+ years and we are sad to see her leave but wish her all the best in her new adventure and are sure she will be brilliant. Tania has brought so many positive things to the setting, not least her infectious smile to always welcome us at the gate, her love of the outdoors and expansion of our Forest School, big improvements to the outdoor space at the setting with a permanent mud kitchen, climbing frame, opening up the cabin for focussed play and introducing Tennis to our Tuesday afternoons! I think some of the highlights for me have been some wonderful graduation ceremonies and the children's joy at performing the Noisy Nativity! Tania – we have been lucky to have you and you'll not be forgotten. Thank you for the massive heart and soul you have always put into our Playgroup.

I wanted to just let you know what happens next and reassure you that we'll still have a full team of excellent staff providing the quality childcare we are all used to, making sure there is no disruption for you or your children. While we continue the ongoing recruitment process for a new Manager, making sure we find the right person, we are thankful to Tracey, who will be very capable of stepping up from Deputy into the Manager role as an interim. In turn, Lisamarie will support Tracey as Deputy; a role she has held previously and is very experienced in. Tracey and Lisa will do an excellent job.

We are also pleased to welcome a new member of staff into the team – Louise Childs will be working as Early Years Practitioner on a part-time basis from 14th March.

We are also sad to see Sarah Eldridge leave the setting at the end of the Spring term after joining as a manager in 2018. Since then, Sarah has supported the Playgroup at so many levels. She has been fundraising and event organising extraordinaire – some of you may be able to remember back to our annual summer fun days and Easter hunts, just to name the big ones! She has stepped into the breach to run the setting as Manager at times we were without anyone to do so and saved our Playgroup as a result. And she has ALWAYS been there behind the scenes going above and beyond to make Playgroup the best it could possibly be. There isn't time here to tell you all she has given us. She is a big loss to the setting but we know she will do amazingly in all of the exciting opportunities she has coming up in her future.

Registered Charity 1020590

Chalfont St Giles Pre School Playgroup, CSG Cricket Pavilion, Crossleys, off Bowstridge Lane, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4QN
All correspondence to be sent to Preschool c/o 50 Brays Meadow, Hyde Heath, Bucks HP6 5RY



Fees

We have managed to keep fees consistent for the past 2 years, with only very minimal changes before that. But we have some big increases to our outgoing costs from April 2022 so I'm sorry that we now need to introduce a small, 3% increase to our fees. For any non-funded hours, the hourly rate will increase from £6.50 to £6.70. We have kept this increase to a minimum and will keep monitoring the situation. This will take effect from your invoice for the Summer term. If you have concerns at all please don't hesitate to contact Anna on csg_playgroup@btinternet.com

Woodland Warriors

Tania was our trained Forest School leader but we just wanted to reassure you that ALL of the staff are very experienced in delivering our very special Woodland Warrior sessions on Thursday afternoons, AND the brilliant "mini" woods sessions, and this won't have to stop. Without a formally trained leader, there won't be any fires in the woods for the time being but all the other great activities will continue and we'll keep giving you some snippets about all the huge benefits these sessions bring to the children via Tapestry and newsletters. But also feel free to chat to staff about it at the setting – they'll all be pleased to tell you more! Again – any concerns or questions at all – just get in touch.

Health and hygiene

We are updating our policies to reflect latest guidance regarding COVID19, but to remind you: please help to keep our staff and children safe by only sending your children to Playgroup if they are fit and healthy. If you're unsure, contact Playgroup directly: 07960 278409

Events

It will be great to be able to start organising some of our brilliant big fundraising events again, the first of which will be the return of our famous Playgroup Easter Hunt on Saturday 9th April. If you remember these from previous years, you'll know what a brilliant day they are for Playgroup children and parents but also for older children and everyone in the village! So please save the date and if you can help us with the BIG job of organising please let me know. More details coming very soon – watch this space.

Plea for Trustees

Finally, as a registered charity our Playgroup relies on having a committee to oversee the running of the setting. We can't exist without it. Myself and several of our current trustees have come to the end of our terms and this leaves space for new people to join. We need a Chair and a Secretary as well as regular members of the Board. We desperately need people to come forward for these roles now if we want Playgroup to continue. If you have a little time you could volunteer, please do come forward. Staff at the setting can tell you more or contact me direct: 07841 198194.

All the best to everyone,
Lindsay Turner
Chair, on behalf of the Trustees