

# WINYATES PLAYGROUP

## Newsletter

January 2019

Welcome to the January newsletter of Winyates Playgroup, and a special welcome to all the new children and their parents/carers. Our newsletter is produced so that we can let you know what the children will be doing in the coming months and provide you with information about the playgroup.

### Activities

All our activities are based on our children's needs and interests. Part of your child's development is focused on Learning through play. It is part of our plans to observe this through the "Characteristics of Effective Learning". Your child may come home and tell you he/she is a Stickosaurus, Explorosaurus or a Thinkosaurs. Don't be alarmed this is a fun way to see how we learn.

Different foods will be sent home for you to share with the children, this is to introduce the children into trying new or different foods.

Malleable and Messy play. This means the children will be exploring and experimenting with different textures and substances.

### Health and Safety

Whatever the weather head lice can always be a problem. Don't Panic! - Our staff can advise you of the appropriate action to take.

To avoid infection, if your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea please leave **48 hours** after recovery before sending them back to Playgroup.

Reception; please use the **correct** gate (the **IN** gate on entering and the **OUT** gate on departing). This is so we can protect your child from not getting lost.

Please inform us when **ANYONE DIFFERENT** is picking up your child, or if you are going to be late. **Please keep the playgroup up to date on current contact details** or ANY change of circumstances.

Following recent Fire Marshall Training on evacuating the premises, we cannot accommodate bikes, pushchairs etc. in the reception area, we need clear routes to get your children out safely.

Please remember to sign the medication book if you want nappy cream or medication used in playgroup.

### Healthy Eating

We are still promoting Healthy Eating in the group, by providing fresh fruit daily, wholemeal toast, milk and water. Please support us by encouraging healthier options within your child packed lunches. **No** sweets, chocolates or popular sweets in yoghurts please. All sweets and chocolate will be sent home in your child's lunch box. Please encourage healthier options such as natural yoghurt, cut up fruit, veg and salad. Please wrap food in food bags, foil or cling film. Your child's leftover food is wrapped up and sent home, so you know what your child has/not eaten. Please supply your child with adequate drinks, they are allowed one third of a pint of milk free per day. We provide water if your child's drink has run out. If your child is at playgroup all day, make sure the packed lunch has an ice block in it. We provide Spoons for yoghurts. **Could you please peel, cut up**

**pieces of fruit and halve grapes/cherry tomatoes, so they are ready for your children to eat safely.** As you can understand that most days there can be 26 children for lunch there isn't time for us to do this. Thank you.

### Comments Book

We invite you to make use of our 'Comments' book. Your views and ideas are always welcome. Also please feel free to discuss any problems or queries with a member of staff. We have had good feedback about putting the coat and lunch box trolleys outside after group; it has reduced congestion in the reception. However, recently since the cold weather has begun we are still putting the bags/lunch boxes outside but the coats are being kept inside and we are trying to change the reception around for more space as suggested by one of our Mum's.

### Playgroup Fee's

Fees must be paid on a weekly basis.

### Reminders

Please name all dummies, lunch boxes, flasks and coats. Please supply enough Nappies and wipes, if your child is not toilet trained. Please put your child in suitable clothing, especially for outside play. Toys from home to be placed in tub.

If you want to start toilet training your child, please discuss with a member of staff, they will only be delighted to help and advise you; e.g. loose clothing making it easier for your child.

### Journals

You are always welcome to view your child's journal and discuss your child's/children's progress. We are holding 2 parents evening Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March and

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 6-8pm. Please book your appointment.

### Lateness

Could you make sure all contact numbers are up to date, also please could we have an alternative contact number we could contact if there had been an incident. Our policy is if a child has been left after 1 hour and no contact with parents has been established the local police will be informed. Also, regular lateness is going to be charged for by every 15 minutes. We close at 2.50pm.

### Holidays

We are closed after session on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February and return Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### Absences

Could you please inform us about absences we are obliged to record absences.

### GDPR

General Data Protection Regulation.

Due to the new legislation that has come into effect we are obliged to inform you of our Privacy Policy and where childcare funding is provided Worcester CC Privacy Policy, detailing how and why we collect, record, share and retain your and your child's personal information. In principle, this is only for our contract and obligations in providing Childcare and fulfilling our Safeguarding responsibilities for your child.

The same regulation requires us to ensure that all personal data we hold is accurate and up to date. To this end we will be asking you to complete a form to reaffirm your and your child's details.

### 30 Hours and tax free Childcare

From September 2017 parent who meet the following criteria are able to get the Extended Entitlement of 30 hours per week free childcare.

A child qualifies for free childcare if they are resident in England, 3+ years old and under compulsory school age, if,-

- Both parents are working (or the sole parent is working in a lone parent family), and
- Each parent earns, on average, a weekly minimum equivalent to 16 hours at National Minimum Wage (NMW) or National Living Wage (NLW), and
- Each parent earns less than £100,000 per year.

Foster carers are not eligible for the extended entitlement for the children that they foster.

Families where one parent does not work will not *usually* be eligible, however, the Extended Entitlement will be available when:-

Both parents are employed but one (or both) is temporarily away from work on Parental/maternity/ paternity or adoption leave  
Both parents are employed but one (or both) is temporarily away from work on Statutory Sick Pay.

Apply on [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) for your voucher code.

### Zoolab

Will be coming on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March (morning) they will be bring exotic animals so that your children can learn about their habitat and how they live. We will be rebooking them again so all children will be able to meet the different animals.

### Photographer

The photographer will be visiting us on the morning of between 9.00am and 12.15pm. If you want your child photographed and they do not attend that day, please pop into group and have them done.