

Dates for the diaries

Monday 6th May	Bank Holiday	Playgroup is closed.
Week beginning Mon 13th May	Walk to Playgroup week	As part of our Being healthy project please make every effort to walk to playgroup this week.
	Parent's reading week	Parents are welcome to sign up to come to read a story to the children. 11.45 or 2.45pm slots. Fancy dress as a favourite story book character is optional all week.
Wednesday 22nd May	Bring a family member to preschool day 10am to 11am and 1 to 2pm – (for children who normally attend on this day).	<i>This is an opportunity for your child to bring you or another family member to preschool to join in the fun. We rotate these days across the week and throughout the year to try to give everyone the opportunity to attend.</i>
	Committee meeting 7.30pm at Playgroup	Everyone welcome
Friday 24th May	Half term break	Last day of term.
Monday 4th June	Term begins	
Friday 7th June	Sports fun event	In the main hall at Croft Sports Centre from 10 to 11am followed by a cake sale and play at playgroup until 12pm. There will also be a raffle (Raffle books to be sent out to all parents). Children who do not normally attend are welcome to take part with an attending parent or carer. Further information to follow.

Don't forget to...

- *Send your child or children to playgroup with sun hats, water bottles and sun cream applied.*
- *Please ensure that they have wellies at playgroup if you can.*
- *Send us WOW moments for your child.*

Please let us know as soon as possible if...

- *You are running late for pick up or if a different adult is collecting your child.*
- *Your contact details have changed or if we do not have your correct email address.*
- *Your child's medication, diet or allergies have changed.*
- *Your child is unwell and will not be in for their session.*



Croft Playgroup Newsletter

April & May 2019

Our value is Respect

Learning to value and admire each other.

Contact details

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A big welcome to the lovely new children and families who have joined us this term. Settling in is different for every child and we will do our best to make you all feel welcome and your children to feel happy and settled. Please talk to your child's key worker or any member of staff if you have any concerns or queries about how things are going. Our door is always open. Please also remember to return any outstanding paperwork as soon as possible, this really helps us as part of the settling in process.

We are delighted to announce that we received our Bronze Healthy Schools Award at the beginning of this term. We are now undertaking a "Being Healthy"

project at playgroup which includes us talking to the children through circle time sessions about ways that we keep our minds and bodies healthy. We have some picture books which support us in thinking about how we are similar and different and emphasise that it is ok to be different and that we should treat each other with respect. This links well to our value for this term.

As part of valuing being healthy we will be holding a **"Walk to Playgroup week"** the week beginning **Monday 13th May** when we'd like to encourage everyone wherever possible to walk, scoot or cycle to Playgroup. During this week in their circle time sessions, the children will think and talk about how we keep our bodies healthy and the value and effects of exercise. We would also be grateful if you could complete the enclosed travel survey about how you currently travel to Playgroup and return it to us by Friday 10th May.

Play, risk and injuries - We try to ensure that the children have constant access to outdoor play and the opportunity to "free flow" which means that they can choose where to play throughout their time at playgroup.

As part of children's play (and often part of outdoor play) the children will take bigger risks and try new things. It is essential for their physical and fully rounded development that they are able to do this to help in becoming brave and confident learners. They also need to move and climb to develop their core strength (which will prepare them for sitting and listening more when they are at school). This may mean that we have more injuries, but children usually work within their levels of confidence and try new things only when they feel comfortable and capable of doing so. We will, of course, always try to ensure the children's safety and ensure that the risks are carefully managed.



If you would like to read more about play and risk there is a useful pdf document on the Health and Safety Executive website:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf> There is a paper copy at preschool which you are welcome to read.

Recommended reading - We are considering the benefits of a small library area in the main entrance for parents to borrow books/articles that we come across that inform and help us as practitioners and parents. We may trial this soon. If you have any thoughts or comments do let us know. Our current recommendations include: "The Gentle Discipline book" by Sarah Ockwell-Smith.

Names and spare clothes - We are now full in both rooms so have a lot of belongings and bags. Please remember to name everything you possibly can! Thanks

to those of you who donated spare clothes for us to use at playgroup. If your child has come home with any of our spare clothes, please remember to return them to us.

"Ask me about" slips - Thanks for the feedback many of you have given. We can tell that these slips are helpful to many in stimulating discussion. To ensure that they are not repetitive and remain manageable for staff we have decided that every child will bring an "Ask me about" slip once a week as a minimum. They may bring home more than one if particular events occur which we feel would be valuable to share. As always if you have any questions or comments please let us know.

End of session pick up's - Please can we remind you that at present, our sessions finish at 12pm and 3pm prompt. As per our late collections procedure there is a fine for anyone who is persistently late.