



# Croft Playgroup Newsletter

## Spring 2021



Thinking about  
**‘How we want the World to be,’**  
focusing on our emotions,  
the language of feelings,  
self-confidence, esteem and awareness.

### **Contact details**

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***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. (They will need to know the password).*
- *Your child is unwell and will not be in for their session or if any of your details have changed.*
- *Remember to let us know of any celebrations you enjoy as a family that you could share with us at Playgroup.*

**Welcome back to playgroup and to 2021!** We are all probably relieved to have got to a new year, though still daunted by having to live with greater restrictions and difficulties that Covid presents. We hope that eventually this year will lead us to happier times with the promise of being able to see and hold loved ones we have missed. If you have suffered loss or difficult times during the Christmas break we extend our love and good wishes to you. Please let us know if we can support you in any way.

**We extend a warm welcome to those children and families joining us this term. Please support us (as best you can at a social distance) in making our new starters and their parents feel welcome.**

**Welcome to a new member of staff.** We are delighted to welcome Monika to our team. She will be working mostly in Willow Room. She has worked in both a nursery and school environment in Swindon for many years and has wonderful skills to bring to the team.

### **Playgroup values – ‘How we want the world to be’**

We want to ensure that we are an inclusive playgroup and that we challenge prejudice, racism and unhelpful stereotypes wherever possible. With small children our most powerful tool is in being exemplary role models through how we talk and relate to one another. As a staff team we have reviewed our values so that they are now entitled, ‘How we want the world to be’ and are detailed below:

- ❖ We show understanding and respect to all adults and children without exception.
- ❖ We value each other’s similarities and differences.
- ❖ We prioritise child led play.
- ❖ We use ‘gentle’ discipline; emphasising understanding emotions behind behaviour.
- ❖ The safety and wellbeing of the children is at the centre of our practise.

These values underpin our work and we will continue to break them down into themes which we share with the children each term.

During the Spring terms we will focus on: *talking about our emotions, using the language of feelings, developing our self-esteem, feeling self-confident, having a growing sense of self awareness, taking risks, having a go and joining in.* We will support the children to name their emotions and to develop their understanding of how our feelings affect our behaviour. We will do this through our circle time sessions, using emotions cards and in the

ways that we manage the children's behaviour. We use signing to support our communication with the children too.

Positive self-esteem, self-confidence and self-awareness are at the heart of healthy development. Supporting the children to settle and feel loved and well connected with the adults and children at Playgroup is the beginning of this process. Through our daily interactions we look for ways to celebrate what the children think and can do to promote their self-esteem. Wherever possible we will consult the children about the resources and areas at Playgroup so that they feel fully involved in what happens here. We look for ways to build on the children's interests and to challenge them further through our interactions and the resources we provide. We encourage them to try to do things for themselves and to take risks in their play. We are also hoping to have some special visitors to playgroup on the theme of people who inspire us (Covid risk assessments allowing) to help to broaden the children's awareness and interests.

**The value of sharing stories.** Did you know that the single biggest predictor of high academic achievement is how much children have been read to? Taking pleasure in stories and hearing the language of story is very important for children. Last year we joined Old Town library and enjoyed two lovely visits to the library. At present visits won't be possible but we can still celebrate World Book week and will work with the library staff to see if there's something else exciting we can do. We loved having parent stories to share with the children so do send more in if you can and we'll share them with the children.

**Sponsored read event.** To promote the value of sharing stories and hopefully raise a little money for playgroup we are planning a Sponsored reading event in January. This will involve children being sponsored for the number of stories they share with parents, carers or siblings during two weeks. More details to follow.

**Keeping in touch** We will continue to use Class Dojo to keep you up to date with what's happening at playgroup. Please continue to let us know about anything which might be of interest or relevant in helping us to support the children. Do let us know about 'Wow' moments: new achievements or progress so that we can celebrate them with the children here too.

## Dates to remember - Spring 2021

<b>Mon 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Training day for staff only.</b>	Staff training. No children on site.
<b>Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Jan onwards</b>	<b>Beginning of term for all children</b>	All children return to playgroup for usual sessions from today onwards.
<b>Tues 12<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>Committee meeting All welcome.</b>	6:30pm via Zoom
<b>Mon 15<sup>th</sup> to Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Half term break – Playgroup closed.</b>	<b>Term starts Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Parent’s reading week</b>	Please record yourselves reading a story so we can share it with the children.
	<b>World Book week</b>	The children can dress up as a favourite story book or nursery rhyme character.
<b>Week beg. 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Parent’s Information week</b>	An opportunity to share and celebrate your child’s success. More info to follow.
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Committee Meeting All welcome</b>	6.30pm via zoom. Please email if you’d like to join the meeting.
<b>Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	<b>Easter celebrations</b>	More details to follow
<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>Last day of term</b>	<b>Term starts on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>

**Snow!** We will always attempt to open as normal, however, heavy snowfall and subsequent ice can cause safety issues and the safety of your children and our staff are our main priorities. Some of our staff have to travel to work by car or bus and so if they are unable to travel it will affect our ability to ensure correct ratios for the children. Closures of local primary schools may also affect staff capacity to work. In previous years we have opened later to give us time to treat the areas around playgroup to make them safe. If we feel forced to open later or to close playgroup we will do our best to inform all parents and carers by 7.30am at the latest. We will inform you by email or telephone call.

