

Dates to remember - Spring 2020

Wednesday 8th January	Show and tell Visit from Community Police Officer	For children in on that day.
Wednesday 15th January	Committee meeting All welcome.	7.30pm at Playgroup
Thursday 16th January	Bring a family member to preschool	10am to 11am and 1.30 to 2.30pm for children usually in on a Thursday.
Tuesday 4th February	Fundraising 'Food around the World' Sale	11.45am and 2.45pm
Mon 17th to Fri 21st Feb	Half term break – Playgroup closed.	Term starts Monday 24th February
Monday 2nd March	Parent's reading week World Book week	Please sign up to come to read a story to the children at 11.45am or 2.45pm slots. Fancy dress as a favourite story book character is optional all week. Trips to the old town library to borrow books.
	Welcome Meeting	For families of children starting after Easter.
Thursday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	Forest School sessions	12.30pm to 3pm <i>Alternate weeks for each room.</i>
Friday 13th March	Bring a family member to preschool	10am to 11am and 1.30 to 2.30pm for children usually in on a Friday
Week beg. 16th March	Parent's Information week	An opportunity to share and celebrate your child's success. More info to follow.
Wed 18th March	Committee Meeting All welcome	7.30pm at Playgroup
Thurs 19th March	Show and tell	For children in on that day. Bring or tell us about something special.
Week beg. Monday 23rd March	Mummy/Significant female Stay and Play week	10am to 11am and 1pm to 2pm. The children can invite Mummy or another significant female in to play at playgroup during the times above.
Thurs 2nd April	Easter event	Oak room – 10am to 11.30am Willow room – 1pm to 2.30pm
Friday 5th April	Last day of term	Term starts on Tuesday 23rd April

❖ *Remember to let us know of any celebrations you enjoy as a family that you could share with us at Playgroup.*



Croft Playgroup Newsletter

January, February & March 2020



Our Value this term is Individual Liberty

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 passcode).*
- *Your child is unwell and will not be in for their session or any of your details have changed*

Welcome back to Playgroup and a Happy New Year!

We'd like to thank those of you who joined us for our Christmas songs last term and who took part in our raffle. It was lovely to hear everybody singing together. We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas break and are now refreshed and ready for the excitement and challenges of the year ahead. Congratulations to our raffle prize winners and thanks to the following companies/organisations for donating prizes:

*Birdland Park and gardens *ATB Skate Warehouse *The Golfing hole
*Cotswold Farm Park *Cotswold Wildlife Park *We are the curious
*Farmer Gows *Studley Grange Butterfly world *Leonardos Restuarant

We also extend a warm welcome to those children and families joining us this term. Please support us in making our new starters and their parents feel welcome at Croft.

The values we are promoting during the spring terms are all related to Individual Liberty and include: *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 looking forward to some visitors to playgroup 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. This term we have joined the library in Old Town and during World Book Week we will be taking the children up so that they can enjoy looking at the stories and can borrow a book to bring back to playgroup. We will be grateful for help so let us know if you are interested.

Forest School - We are looking forward to welcoming back Neil from Wild Inspired to lead more Forest School sessions. He will come every Thursday afternoon during March to lead sessions for children in Willow and Oak room on alternate weeks. There is a charge of £5 per session, for which you will be invoiced. We are hoping that he will also be back on Fridays in June and July so that more children will have an opportunity to take part in these wonderful sessions. They are always popular!

Keeping in touch – Please continue to use the Home/Playgroup books to let us know about anything that's happening at home e.g. trips, holidays. You can also use the WOW notes to let us know about new achievements so that we can celebrate them here too.

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.