



Croft Playgroup Newsletter

June & July 2022



Continuing to think about
“How we want the world to be”
 focusing on:

- ❖ Being listened to and feeling valued
- ❖ Being encouraged and allowed to make our own choices,
- ❖ Valuing each other’s similarities and differences,
- ❖ Understanding how to be healthy in mind and body,
 - ❖ Being independent.

Contact details

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Find us on Facebook too: Croft Playgroup, Swindon

Mon 6 th June	Term starts	
Every Tuesday morning	Zumba	Sessions for both rooms will continue.
Tuesday 7 th June	Smiles at school Photography	Children will be able to have their photograph taken.
Week beginning 13 th June	Parent’s reading week	10:45am & 2:45pm Please email to book your visit.
Week beginning 20 th June	Significant male adult stay and play week An important male family member or friend can come to play: Dads, Grandads, Uncles, Godfathers etc all welcome.	Every day from 10am until 11am and 1pm until 2pm Please email to let us know if someone is planning to attend.
Mon 27 th & Tues 28 th June	TD days	Playgroup closed
Tuesday 28 th June	Welcome Meeting for September starters only	11am (Playgroup remains closed to current cohort as above).
Week beginning Monday 4 th July	Parent’s Information Week School leavers will also have reports to share.	An opportunity to come to meet with your child’s keyworker to reflect on your child’s learning and progress.
Tuesday 5 th July	Forest School activities in the garden	Neil from Wild Inspired will spend the day with us.
	Committee Meeting All welcome	6:30pm at playgroup All welcome
Wednesday 6 th July	Show and Tell	Children in on that day can bring in something to show, or tell us about something special.
Monday 11 th July	Bring a family member to preschool day	10am until 11am and 1:30pm until 2:30pm *for children who are usually in on this day*
Wednesday 13 th July	Zoolab comes to playgroup! Children not normally in on that day are welcome to come along but will need an adult to stay with them.	9:15 to 10:15 in Oak room 10:30 to 11:30 in Willow room
Friday 15 th July	Sponsored walk/run event	An opportunity to raise our heart rates and some money for playgroup! More details to follow.
Wednesday 20 th July	Leaver’s event <u>only for children going to school in Sept 2022</u>	A party and celebration ceremony 4 to 5:30pm More details to follow
Friday 22 nd July	Last day of term	

Welcome to the last term of this academic year!

Helicopter stories - [Helicopter Stories – Letting Imagination Fly](#)



Helicopter stories are a wonderful way to encourage children to develop their communication, language and story telling skills and to develop the vocabulary which will inevitably help them to be imaginative writers. We have loved hearing the children's stories and seeing them grow in confidence and enthusiasm both for telling stories and in joining in to act them out.

Summer term notes:

- **Sponsored Walk:** Join us at playgroup to see how many laps of the garden you can do to raise money and enjoy some exercise and fresh air together.
- **Celebrations:** Please remember to let us know if there are celebrations coming up that you take part in as a family and which we can learn about at playgroup.
- In the hope that we enjoy some warmer sunny weather, **please ensure that your child has sun cream applied before they arrive at playgroup;** we will apply more as appropriate during their session.
- Please also send them with a **sun hat and appropriate footwear** for playing, running, climbing and digging in the mud!
- We also need at least **2 changes of clothes for your child with everything named please (if it's not attached, name it!!)**
- It's very important that they are well hydrated so please remember to send in a **full water bottle.** Thank you!

Starting school For many of the children this is their last term with us before starting school in September. We know that this can feel a big step and may feel daunting. We work with local schools to support your children's transitions as much as possible and will also email out a copy of our School Readiness presentation which will hopefully help to reassure you that your children are ready for the challenge and excitement of school. Below is an extract from the presentation with ideas for what you can do to support your children to be 'school ready:'



Helping your child to play:

- have fun together,
- make time to listen and talk to your child,
- share activities (cooking, playdough, painting, mending, making) together and talk about what you are doing and what you enjoy,

- encourage your child to share and take turns, sit with them whilst they play with their toys and join in with their play, commenting and taking their lead,
- share books and enjoy stories together,
- sing nursery rhymes and songs together,
- encourage your child to be active – running, jumping, playing with balls, swinging, sliding, rolling,
- encourage your child to make marks for writing, e.g., writing the shopping list with you, writing birthday cards,
- encourage your child to count lots of different things.



Helping your child to do as much for themselves as possible:

- help your child to learn to dress and undress on their own,
- help them to recognise their own clothes and belongings,
- help them to recognise their own name when they see it,
- practise using a knife and fork, eating packed lunches and working out how to manage food wrappers,
- help them to become more confident with wiping their bottoms after using the toilet and in washing their hands,
- encourage them to make choices about what they want to play with or what they want to eat.

Encourage your child to experience different things and cope with changes:

- eat with other people other than family,
- visit places with different toilets to try out and talk about different ways of flushing toilets, turning on taps and drying hands,
- let boys experience using a urinal,
- play with other children who they are not familiar with,
- do things such as play at a friend's house without you,
- talk to your child or children about how they feel about starting school,
- reassure them by reading books about starting school and talking to them about what will happen during the first few days



Remember that the Reception year in many ways is an extension of the playgroup approach to learning and that the children will continue to have opportunities to play and to pursue their own interests alongside more focused input. This can be an emotionally charged time for parents too, so look after yourselves and try to ensure that you have support around you so that you can air your feelings and take comfort and reassurance from friends and family; and know that you are always welcome to talk to us at any time if you have any queries or concerns about your child starting school.