



Croft Playgroup Newsletter

September & October 2021



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

- ❖ Knowing our Golden Rules
- ❖ Making friendships
- ❖ Talking about our emotions
- ❖ Using the language of feelings
- ❖ Being respectful to one another
- ❖ Valuing each other’s similarities and differences

Contact details

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Find us on Facebook too: Croft Playgroup, Swindon

Dates for the term ahead:

Every Tuesday morning from Tues 14 th September	Zumba	Sessions for both rooms will continue.
Wednesday 22 nd Sept	AGM - Committee	7pm at playgroup All parents and carers welcome to attend. <i>New members of the committee are voted in and reports from the previous year are given at this meeting.</i>
Week commencing Monday 4 th October	Parent’s Reading Week	11:45 and 2:45pm Please email to let us know if you would like to come in to read a story at the above times on any day during the week.
Week commencing Monday 11 th October	Settling in meetings	For parents of new starters. You will receive an email with a date and time for your meeting.
Wednesday 13 th October	Bring a family member to preschool day	10am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm Please email to let us know if you would like to come in to play.
Week commencing 18 th October	Halloween fancy dress and activities for those who wish to participate	Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday all day
Wednesday 20 th October	**Last day of term**	
Monday 1 st November	Term starts	

Celebrations - Please remember to let us know if there are celebrations coming up that you take part in as a family which we can learn about at playgroup.

Autumn term notes:

- We also need at least 2 changes of clothes for your child and a pair of wellies. Please put their name in every item. *(if it’s not attached, name it!!)*
- Reminder that we are a nut-free playgroup so please no nuts or nut based fillings in lunch boxes.

Thank you

Welcome to a new year at playgroup. A very warm welcome to our returning families and our new starters. We are really enjoying getting to know you all and delighted to see the children exploring and playing with excitement.

We are delighted that Gabi, who was volunteering with us last year, is now working as a keyworker in Oak room while she undertakes her apprenticeship in Early Years child care. She has her own delightful family and much to offer the children in her care and we feel lucky to welcome her to our team.



'How we want the world to be' is the title we give to the values which underpin our work at playgroup and that we share with the children during our circle time sessions throughout the year. This term we focus on:

- Making friendships
- Talking about our emotions
- Using the language of feelings
- Being respectful to one another
- Valuing each other's similarities and differences
- Knowing our Golden Rules:
 - When we have finished, we tidy up what we have been playing with.
 - We walk indoors and use indoor voices.
 - We have gentle hands and feet.
 - We have listening ears.
 - We use kind words.

We reflect on these values during our circle time sessions using stories and discussions to support the children's understanding. In our ongoing support of the children's play and interaction we name emotions and narrate what has happened to further underpin their learning, expression and ability to communicate their needs and relate to others.

We also understand that we are constant role models for the children and we relate to them and each other in ways which further demonstrate these ideas and values.

Settling in can take a lot of energy for both children and adults. As the children form closer attachments with the adults and other children at playgroup they will feel more comfortable within the setting, but they can feel tired with the effort and this can lead to wobbles along the way. It is important to keep their well-being at the centre of everything we do and so we will keep talking to you to ensure that you are comfortable with our approach and will discuss their

settling in more detail during our meetings in early October. We look forward to seeing where friendships blossom and to supporting your lovely children as they continue to find their feet. Please also remember to be kind to yourselves along the way. It is a big step for parents too.

For those of you whose children have already settled we will hold further parent meetings to reflect on and discuss their progress in November. Remember that you are always welcome to let us know if you'd like to see their folder or talk to us further about any aspect of their care and learning.

A new library! We are delighted to announce that we've been able to create a space for our own library at playgroup. Sharing stories is a vital part of child development and early literacy and so it is important that we foster a love of books and reading. More photos and information to follow.

Tools! We are enjoying beginning to make use of our tools and learning how to use them safely. We are slowly and carefully introducing our tools so that eventually the children are able to select and use them with greater independence and competence.



Family photos In each room we have a family board which we like to fill with family photos. This is a lovely way to bring you all into playgroup. Please bring in or email a family photograph that you are happy for us to display in the setting.

Facebook and Class Dojo We use our Facebook page and Class Dojo app as another way to let you know what's happening at playgroup. You should have received an invitation to join Class Dojo, if you do not already have it, and if you aren't already do follow us on Facebook @croftplaygroup.

Events this term:

- **Parent's Reading Week** (week beginning 4th October) is an opportunity for you to come in towards the end of either our morning or afternoon session to read a story to the children. This can be a story that your child enjoys sharing with you at home or feel free to pick one of ours from the reading corner. If you'd like to do this, then please email us and we will book you in for a day during the week.
- **Bring a family member to preschool day** (Wednesday 13th October) is an opportunity for your child to welcome a family member to playgroup to join in their play either from 10-11am or 1:30-2:30pm. If you would like to sign up for this, then please email us to let us know that you'd like to come. *We run this on a different day each term to try to give everyone the chance to visit.*