

12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Gingerbread Cottage Playgroup Newsletter



Dear Parents/ Carers,

### **AUTUMN TERM 2017**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our children and parents to Gingerbread Cottage Playgroup. This particular time can be stressful for parents to settle your child into the playgroup routine. It is important for all staff to work with you and your child in helping them to feel secure and confident. As this is the beginning of their future for successful learning, please be consistent, positive and patient at this crucial time. We look forward to working with you to support your child in their learning and development.

Parents if you have a 2 year toddler who has started with us this term, we would like you to share with us your child's 2 year developmental check from your child's health visitor.

### **PARENTS EVENING**

Gingerbread holds Parents evening every term. Parents are invited to come in to meet their child's key person formally to discuss the learning and development of their child.

Parents are sent letters with reply slips to book their slots for the preferred time. These meetings are very important so please make sure not to miss out. (Dates at the end of the newsletter).

### **GINGERBREAD EVENTS THIS TERM**

Our first event of this term is the festival of Diwali. We shall be starting our Diwali activities from 9<sup>th</sup> October finishing with Diwali Party on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Children are welcome to attend playgroup in traditional or party clothes.

We will be raising money for Children in Need in November. Children will be decorating money bags to bring it home, together with sponsor form to collect money from family and friends. We will have fun day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and **children can come in wearing spotty clothes**. On the fun day we will have Pudsey fun games, face painting and yummy food. (Non-uniform day)

The other Charities that Gingerbread Playgroup supports are 'Sports Relief' and 'Barnardo's Toddle Walk'. One charity per term. For all these events, we would like to work with parents to help your child to understand the needs of others by raising money and join in fun filled activities that we may provide.

### **PHOTOGRAPHER**

Our annual photographer will be in on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017, from 9am to 3pm during the session. If you would like a family photo taken, please inform the staff.

### **FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY AT GOALS**

On the Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017, Gingerbread Playgroup and Gingerbread 2 Nursery have organised a Christmas Party at Goals. Family tickets will be on sale near the time.

Christmas activities will begin from the week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> December and finishing with a 'Big Christmas Party' on the last day of the term 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **STORY WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS**

We hold story workshops on Tuesdays and Thursdays for children and their families. Children have really enjoyed having their parents / families in to listen to stories and also stories read by them to children. Thank you to all those parents who have joined in and read your child's favourite story to all of us. Hope all our new parents take this opportunity and come to these workshops and also bring in your child's favourite story.

Times for these workshops are 11.30 am for morning parents and 1pm for the afternoon parents.

### **PARENTS AS PARTNERS / LEARNING JOURNALS USING TAPESTRY ONLINE**

We would like parents to be actively involved in their child's learning and daily activities.

We would like a rota set up for parents coming in voluntarily on a regular basis for an hour or so to exchange ideas with staff and have an insight into how learning takes place in the setting.

If you can help, please come in and see Mrs Ali.

Early years learning is a very important time in a child's life. We as child care practitioners have a key role to play in working with you to support your child's individual learning and development.

Learning starts from home. In order for us to plan for your child's needs, there has to be constant dialogue between the setting and the home. This partnership supports parents as well as practitioners to gather information about your child's developmental needs and learning through their interests. All this information will give us a starting point through "All about Me" form given by the setting and you can update any changes online Tapestry. Your child's Key Person will collect a variety of observations, and record their development in their Learning Journal Online.

A link will be sent to you via email for you to access your child's Learning Journey. Parents can look at their child's work, add their comments, and anything your child does with you at home.

<http://eyfs.info/tapestry-info/introduction#overview>

### **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE**

If you would like any information about the curriculum, please come and see our displays in the porch. You can also speak to the staff or download the framework the publication on:

[www.everychildmatters.gov.uk](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk) or [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

### **FATHERS AND MOTHERS WEEKS**

Each term we have set weeks for parents/carers to come into the playgroup and spend time with their children. This is your opportunity to get involved in your child's learning. If there is anything in particular that you would like to do or any activities that you may think will support your child's learning, talk to a member of staff so that we can add to our planning.

This is an important aspect for parents as partners and beneficial for your child, and your child's key person at the setting. (See section – dates for your diary).

### **30 HOURS FEE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL CHARGES**

As we have now registered as a full day care setting our opening hours are from 8am – 5pm. If you are a new parent and want to know about 30 hours of funding visit [www.childcarechoice.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoice.gov.uk)

Each term parents will have to re-check eligibility to 30 hours funding.

If your child will be attending during times when breakfast (8am-9am) or tea (4pm-5pm) are served there will be a charge of £1 for the meal provided. Depending on the hours of funding

for your child you may also be charged for the hour (£4.84) for any additional hours not covered by FEEE.

### **SCHOOL ADMISSION**

If your child is starting school in September 2018, you can now apply for a place online on Leicestershire County Council website [admissions@leics.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@leics.gov.uk) or ring 0116 3056684.

### **LUNCH CLUBS**

We would like to remind parents about our lunch club. This facility is available for parents to use, when they need that little bit of more time before they pick their child up. Lunch clubs also helps children to socialise with other children, making them independent and encouraging them to develop good eating habits. You don't have to pre-book for lunch club, just send your child with a packed lunch on the day and pay £4.84. Please remember we have children in the playgroup with a nut allergy, therefore no nuts in their packed lunch.

Gingerbread is **NUT FREE AND SWEETS FREE ZONE!!!**

Morning children **must** be picked up by 12.50pm from the lunch club as our afternoon session starts at 12.55pm.

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – LITERACY AND NUMERACY & FRENCH**

We are continuing with our popular after school clubs this term. Foundation Stage Club provides extra support for children with their listening, speaking, understanding, reading and writing. We also learn about shapes, space, measures and numbers. Our literacy and numeracy club is Tuesday. French club continues on Monday delivered by a qualified French teacher, Madame Sophie. Madame Sophie is a parent who has joined us to deliver the French clubs. Details of the term are attached to this newsletter from Madame Sophie for your information. We have places available if you wish your child to attend these clubs. The charges for the clubs are £4 per session and are paid in advance. This term, there are 14 sessions.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS / EXPLORING LOCAL COMMUNITY**

As part of the curriculum we will take the children to explore our local environment. This helps children to be aware of road safety, develop their observational skills and become familiar with the wider community. We do take photographs of the children in their play, at various activities and when we go for walks in the local area. Some of these are kept as evidence for Ofsted Inspections, learning journals and planning.

### **PLACEMENTS**

From time to time we have placements that come to us for training and they will make observations on children for their course. No pictures will be taken of your children for their coursework. We will keep you up dated with names and photographs of placements in the porch area.

### **CHILDREN'S CLOTHING**

Our uniform consists of jogging trousers, sweatshirts and polo shirts which can be purchased from us and these should be worn at all times, shoes should be practical and safe. Please could you ensure that all your children's clothing is clearly labelled as un-labelled items often go missing and young children do not recognise their own clothing. If your child has been changed into Gingerbread labelled clothes, please could you return them to us washed and ironed ready to be used again. As some items of our clothing have gone missing in the past.

## **JEWELLERY**

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear looped earrings, beaded necklaces and bracelets. May we remind you of the dangers of jewellery being caught on play equipment which can cause a severe injury.

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

If there are any changes in your circumstance;

- Home address/ your mobile phone number
- Email address
- Your child's health/diet
- G.P. details
- Emergency contact numbers

Please notify Mrs Ali ASAP on 2711970 or email on [gulza@gingerbreadnursery.co.uk](mailto:gulza@gingerbreadnursery.co.uk)

## **FREE EARLY YEARS EDUCATION ENTITLEMENT (FEEE) FOR 2, 3, 4 YEAR OLDS**

The first term after your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday, entitles your child to receive 15 hours of Free Early Years Educational Entitlement during term time (38 weeks in the year). Parents will be required to bring in their child's birth certificate as evidence for the funding.

We do offer free childcare for 2 year olds, if you feel your child will be eligible, please check on the following link: <https://www.myearlylearning.co.uk/EarlyYears/Apply>

## **SICKNESS AND ABSENCE**

If your child is away from the playgroup for any reason you will need to come in and sign an absence book. If you are going to be away from the playgroup for a long period of time, you will need to give this information in writing explaining the reason for the absence. This information is required for auditing purposes by the LEA which is where your child receives the funding from.

Leicestershire County Council monitors your child's attendance and officers carry out random checks within the setting. Failure to do so will affect their funding.

## **NEW STREET GATES /SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

We would like to remind all our parents to use the gates on New Street when picking up the children at 11.55am morning sessions and dropping at 1.00pm for the afternoon sessions. **(PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FRONT OF THE GATES AS THIS IS REQUIRED FOR EMERGENCY ACCESS)**

***We have noticed that some parents are parking at the Gingerbread 2 Nursery. Please can you leave these spaces for the parent's that use the nursery.***

***However we do have an agreement with Waitrose and you are more than welcome to park there at pick up and drop off time.***

**As the playgroup is on the site of Launde Primary School, Parents should be made aware that we adhere to the school rules. Scooters, bikes should not be ridden once inside the school grounds. Please respect the school by not allowing your children to play on their climbing equipment. Electronic gates should not be tampered with as this stops its function and can cause disruption.**

**Please do not wander around school around 12pm and 1pm when you come to pick and drop your child, as school children are out. Take the path that leads you to Gingerbread Cottage Playgroup and back the same route from New Street Gate.**

## **BIRTHDAY TREATS**

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that both Launde School and Gingerbread Cottage Playgroup are sweet free zones. This means both inside the building and

the school grounds. For children's birthdays we recommend that you send in fresh fruit or little boxes of raisins. We can have cakes only if they are eggless as Gingerbread is strictly vegetarian.

### **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

May we remind all our parents and carers that all our policies and procedures are kept in the porch. Please take time to familiarise yourself with these.

### **ARRIVING/COLLECTING CHILDREN.**

**Can we take this opportunity to remind you that it is very important that your child arrives on time.**

**This is valuable time when your child can be forming friendships and interacting with others. Late collections upsets children if it is unavoidable please inform us.**

**Please ensure that all children arrive at 9.00 am for the morning sessions and by 1.00pm for the afternoon sessions so that valuable time is not wasted.**

**Remember 3 late collections means that you will incur a fine of £5 for the first 10 minutes and then £5 for every 5 minutes thereafter. If you are later than 20mins the 3 late collections do not apply, you will be charged immediately.**

**This may seem excessive but is necessary as two members of staff have to stay with the child until the parent carer arrives.**

**Thank You  
Playgroup staff**

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**(It is important that you print this page to remind of the dates or mark them in your diary)**

### **Autumn Term 2017**

**Mothers Week – Week Commencing Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Half-Term Break Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Photographer – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (9am -3pm)**

**Fathers Week – Week commencing Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Diwali Party – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (during session, no uniform)**

**Parents Evening – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 (3.30pm to 5.15pm)**

**Children in Need Fun day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Christmas Family Party at Goals - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
Buy the tickets in advance**

**Christmas Party on last day of term - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
One Party for all morning and afternoon children together 9am to 12 noon.**

**Gingerbread Playgroup opens for Spring Term:  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

### **CLUB DATES**

**French Club dates as follows (Monday) Time 3.30 to 4.30pm**

**4<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Half – Term break 16<sup>th</sup> October – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**23<sup>rd</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 4<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> December last session of the term.**

**Literacy and Numeracy Dates are as follows (Tuesday) Time 3.30 pm to 4.30 pm:**

**5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> September, 3<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

**Half – Term break: 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**24<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> October, 7<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> November, 5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> December last session of the term.**

**End of term 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 the clubs will resume again in Spring Term 2018.  
Re book your child's Club for Spring Term.**

**French Club**  
**term plan (Autumn term)**

1. 4<sup>th</sup> Sept: Greetings, who are you ? French cognates
2. 11<sup>th</sup> Sept: Revisit greetings + how are you ? phonic [ah]
3. 18<sup>th</sup> Sept: Understanding French instructions phonic [bay]
4. 25<sup>th</sup> Sept: extend/practise French instructions + numbers 1 to 5 phonic [say]
5. 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct: song : 'tourne tourne petit moulin'
6. 9<sup>th</sup> Oct: numbers 1 to 10 + asking for / say your age phonic [day]
- 16<sup>th</sup> October: ½ term, NO CLUB.
7. 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct: Food with numbers and colours phonic [euh]
8. 30<sup>th</sup> Oct: food + express likes/dislikes phonic [eff]
- 6<sup>th</sup> November : NO CLUB
9. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov: food + giving out and thanking phonic [jay]
10. 20<sup>th</sup> Nov: design my favourite sandwich phonic [ash]
11. 27<sup>th</sup> Nov: song : 'frère Jacques'
- 4<sup>th</sup> December: NO CLUB
12. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec: Christmas + design a Christmas decoration

The sessions will usually include the 4 skills which are needed for the learning of a language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Where appropriate, the activities will be differentiated to suit the needs of the different ages so that your child can benefit from all activities.

There will be a lot of speaking and listening work, which will suit all ages. When listening activities take place, the younger children will mainly associate sounds to pictures, whilst older ones will try to associate the word they hear to the French written version.

When working at the table on writing activities, the younger ones will focus on pen control / colouring activities related to the learning topic, whilst the more advanced children who can already read and write will practise recognising and writing French words as well.

Each session will include a variety of activities and games to develop the different skills. Most sessions will focus on a particular phonic to familiarise your child with French sounds and all sessions will include a short song or story, once again, to familiarise their hearing with the French language. Sometimes, songs or stories will be practised in more depth, and sometimes they will be used for familiarisation only.

This term plan is designed to help you to follow your child's learning of French.

However, depending on the learning pace of the group, it may be subject to changes.