

Dates to your diary

10.01.2024 - Start of the Spring Term 1

17.01.2024 - Meet the team Breakfast - everyone welcome

18.01.2024 - Winnie the Pooh Day - bring your teddy

25.01.2024 - Burns' night - Scottish celebration

26.01.2024 – 28.01.2024 - Big Garden Birdwatch

27.01.2024 – 4.02.2024 - National Storytelling Week

9.02.2024 - End of the Spring Term 1

10.02.2024 – Lunar New Year

Dear Parents and Carer's,

We hope everyone is happy and had a relaxing time during Christmas break, ready to start New Year with a refreshed body and mind.

We look forward to hearing news from the children about their experience. If your child practiced some independence and developed new skills, please let us know so can celebrate together your child's achievement. You can send a little note with a child or post it on the Kinderly parents' portal as a postcard.

With a start of New Year and Spring Term 1, I would like to introduce to you to our new members of staff - Kim and Charlotte, who are sharing the Deputy Playgroup Leader position. It is great time build up a team and make new connection.

Kim

Hello :-) I am really excited to start my journey at St Catharines, meet you all and most importantly spend time with your children. I have run Stay & Plays and Baby groups locally for the last 2 years, since I left teaching. Before that I taught at a variety of schools for 10 years, eventually settling in to Early Years when I had my son.

To me, the best part of the day is bedtime, not least because my 6-year-old whirlwind finally settles down, but reading and sharing stories with him is my favourite thing to do, as he believes he can do anything!

I am really looking forward to enjoying reading and sharing books with your children, inspiring them to dream big! You never know we could be teaching the next astronaut or prime minister.



Charlotte



I have worked in a variety of Childcare roles over 28 years including those of Nanny, 1-2-1 Support Worker, Classroom Assistant, Reception TA and Nursery practitioner. I love delivering story times and any activities where a bit of dancing and singing is needed.

*Qualifications: NVQ Level 3 Early Years Care and Education, First Aid
I have two children aged 9 and 11 and 3 grown up stepchildren 26,22 and 21.*

Annie - Administrator

I have worked behind the scenes in playgroups for years, working in finance, admin and as a Trustee. I'm so lucky to now have the opportunity to work at St Catharine's Under Fives! The staff all have such love for the children, their development and for the playgroup. I have two young children myself and ran a village Toddler Group for years. I believe the right start for children is so important for their wellbeing and development. I believe St Catherine's provides such a special place for young children and provides them with the best start.



Family breakfast

We would also like to invite our families in for a meet the team breakfast on Wednesday 17.01.2024. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the team, ask any questions and see what happens within the setting. All children are welcome – if it is not their usual day, then they are still welcome to come for the breakfast and leave after. We would ask if anyone could bring in any donations for the breakfast this would be very much appreciated.

Suggestions are: bread, pastries, cereal, orange juice, apple juice, butter, fruits

Our special interest

Winnie the Pooh Day came from the personal interest of one of our children attending the playgroup. It is a great opportunity for the children to bring a cuddly toy to playgroup to have the joy of sharing a picnic with our toys! It will be great opportunity for the children to practice talking and sharing their knowledge with others. We will also be celebrating the teddy bear theme at Stay & Play on Tuesday 16th January with a Teddy Bears Picnic theme, please come along and join us if you can!.

The idea of Birdwatch Day came from one of our children who noticed a nest on the top of the tree growing nearby. If you like to help to count the birds that come and visit your garden, balcony or a park near you. Please visit [Big Garden Birdwatch \(rspb.org.uk\)](https://www.rspb.org.uk) if you are interested.

If your child has a special interest and would like it to be a part of our curriculum, please let the team know. If you would like to celebrate your heritage and contribute to enrich our knowledge about the world around us, please contact the team. We love to learn, celebrate!

Fundraising

Thank you very much for all your support with fundraising over the last few months. Fundraising activities so far include: a disco, Wreath Making Workshops, Christmas Market, Raffle and a sponsored bike ride. We have already raised over £1,100! These vital funds have helped towards new equipment such a new playgroup laptop and slide (to be purchased soon!) and staff training.

Every day Matter

Please can all parents ensure water bottles, coats and lunchboxes are all named and a cool block is in packed lunches. Please ensure the children have a healthy, substantial lunch and water in their water bottles to keep their energy levels up for their day of fun. For some ideas for lunchboxes, please take a look at the link below. Just remember things like grapes please cut into quarters!!

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

Please also ensure that children wear lots of layers to the setting in this cold season. The children can practice recognising when they get too hot or too cold during the play. They can use their skills with support when needed. Please bring changes of clothes with them to the playgroup.

If children are not going to be in, please do let us know that they won't and a reason, so we can ensure to help in any way we can.

Parent consultations will be taking place after half term. Please keep your eyes peeled for dates.

As always, we want to thank you all so much for your support, donations and time given to St Catharine's Under Fives, we really do love what we do!