

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

10.04.2024 - Start of the Playgroup Summer Term 1

11.04.2024 - Preschool visits Guild House Residential Home to sing songs

15.04.2024-19.04.2024 - Parent Consultation/Conference - appointments to be booked on WhatsApp

15.04.2024 - World Art Day

22.04.2024 - Earth Day

23.04.2024 - St George's Day

29.04.2024 - International Dance Day

04.05.2024 - Craft Market 2-4pm - Playgroup fundraising event

06.05.2024 - May Bank Holiday - Playgroup closed

12.05.2024 - Limerick Day

20.05.2024 - Bumblebee Day

24.05.2024 Last day of Summer Term 1

Welcome to the Summer Term!

Dear Parents and Carers.

Welcome back to summer term. I hope everyone had a good break whether celebrating Easter or not.

We are welcoming some lovely new starters, who joined before the break and who visited us the last day, and we are so happy to have them with us.

April is National Pet Month. If your family has a pet, could you share some photos or share information to add to our display board? Some of the children are interested in playing "Pets and Where They Live" Matching Cards.

STORY

To follow some of the children's interests, we are going to learn the "Dear Zoo" story in the following weeks. The plan is for the children to: listen and act out the story; think about the

different sizes of parcels; their ideas of what could be inside; their feelings of getting an animal; creating their own ending and making a big display. It is a great opportunity for developing language, literacy and maths skills.

PRESCHOOLERS

Soon parents of preschoolers will know about their allocated school. Please could you share your news with the child's key person or send the information to Annie- our administrator by email.

As a setting, we are preparing the children for this new adventure and working closely on their school readiness. Pre-school Thursday's includes a P.E. session which helps with the preschools physical skills and helps them to practise getting dressed and undressed for P.E. for when they start school. Can we ask that the pre-school children bring in a P.E. kit this term (a pair of shorts/leggings/joggers and a t-shirt) and that they come into playgroup wearing clothes that they find easy to take off and put on independently (no tights or lace up shoes for example). Please ensure these clothes are named and that they are brought in a named bag (please no draw string bags for safety reasons) - these can stay in playgroup for the term.

SPARE CLOTHES

Please can all the children be sent with plenty of spare clothes, as we will carry on with our indoor and outdoor messy play activities in all weather conditions. Please label every item of clothing, even socks and pants, with your child's name as it helps staff to organise the clothes more efficiently and minimises the risk of misplacing items.

TOYS FROM HOME

If your child wants to bring a toy in from home to show to their friends, that's fine but please ensure you have taken the toy before you leave. This will help us avoid having lost or broken toys, which can be very stressful for the young child. Comforters are an exception as they play a crucial role in supporting children's emotional security during unsettling times.

FUNDRAISING

We plan to hold a craft market at the beginning of May (see Dates for your Diary). Our last fundraising event (Easter Egg Hunt) covered the cost of the grass that needed replacement

in the garden. We organise fundraising every other month to cover new equipment or staff training.

COMMITTEE WE NEED YOUR HELP!

St Catharine's Under Fives are a charity playgroup and as such are committee led. We would like to invite you to join our committee and learn more about what happens behind the scenes! This is usually a very hands-off role and will take very little of your time. One of the main activities is thinking up fundraising activities, planning or organisation skills or you (or a family member) might just love the feeling you/they get from being part of a team that really makes a difference to the lives of children. Any small amount of help you can provide would be gratefully received. If you're able to help, please contact Annie our Administrator or talk to one of the staff members at drop off/pick up time.

STAY AND PLAY

On Tuesdays, we run a stay and play 10am-11.30am and have different themes each week. It's just £3 per family which includes snack and also cake! We have sensory play, craft, free play and also singing at the end. Here are some of the upcoming themes:

Tuesday 16th of April- Bees

Tuesday 23rd of April- St Georges Day

Tuesday 30th of April- Recycling

Tuesday 7th of May- Rainbows

Tuesday 14th of May- Jobs

Tuesday 23rd of May TBC

REMINDERS

- Only water in water bottles please.
- Please, provide a packed lunch (which should be healthy including fruit and veg option for a child to try) and avoid chocolates. Lunch Pack must include an icepack to keep the contents cool, whatever the weather, as required by Ofsted.
- Please could you check that we are holding the correct phone numbers and addresses on file for your children in case of emergency.