

NEWSLETTER – November 2019



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 29th November – Photographer at Playgroup
Friday 6th December – St Nicholas Gift Shop
Saturday 7th December – Breakfast with Santa
Saturday 7th December – adult craft afternoon
Friday 13th December – St Catharine's Under Fives Nativity
Friday 20th December – Last Day of Playgroup

THIS TERM

This term has passed by quickly. We have enjoyed visits to Guild House, Hillfield Gardens and Armscroft Park to test out the new slide. We have also visited the church for the harvest bread mouse hunt.

The children are all happy and engaged when taking part in new activities and are a credit to St Catharine's Under Fives. In the next few weeks, it's Christmas, Christmas, Christmas. The children have been busy preparing crafts for the St Nicholas Gift Shop. We have begun to sing Christmas songs and start to practice the Nativity play. All children are invited to participate even if it is not their normal day. Costume lists and roles will be sent home in a letter next week.

If you have any questions regarding these events, please speak to Michelle.

The staff at St Catharine's Under Fives wish you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone at the Santa Breakfast on Saturday 7th December 2019 for some Christmas fun and celebrations.



From January 2020 during the Preschool Thursday sessions, the children will be taking part in PE Lessons to prepare them for their transition to school. Please can all children bring a P.E. kit to the Thursday sessions i.e. a named bag with tshirt and a pair of shorts to change into. This can be kept at playgroup and sent home during the holidays.

PHOTOGRAPHER – FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2019

The photographer will be in playgroup on Friday to take individual photos of the children. If your child does not normally come in on this day, they are welcome to come a long. Speak to Michelle to arrange a time.

ST NICHOLAS GIFT SHOP – FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER 2019

If you are new to playgroup, you may not know what the St Nicholas Gift shop is all about. It has been a long standing tradition that St Catharine's Under Fives children host a St Nicholas Gift shop that they invite all their parents, grandparents and siblings to. The children at playgroup have been busy creating and constructing many gifts which they will display in their St Nicholas Gift shop on Friday 6th December 2019, 1:15pm for their parents to come and select and take home for a donation. There will also be snacks and delicious treats to have in the café area. So please come along to St Catharine's Under Fives Playgroup and join in the fun. If your child is not usually in on this day, they are welcome to come along too. Look out for a letter home with extra information on.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISING

You may have noticed that St Catharine's Under Fives have a lot of fundraising events coming up. These events are organised and run by the staff and committee of St Catharine's Under Fives Playgroup so that money can be raised to buy equipment and cover the constant increasing operating cost of the playgroup, due to council funding not inflating. Whilst cost of living increases every year, wages, rent, insurance costs, council funding has remained static for many years, indeed with only 1 increase in the last 6 years.

Please help St Catharine's Under Fives Playgroup by supporting our events, sharing notifications on Facebook or word of mouth, so that we can continue to operate for years to come.

Tickets can be purchased from playgroup, Stay & Play or through our Facebook pages.



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday
7th December 2019
9:30am – 11am

At
St Catharine's Parish Hall,
London Road, Gloucester.
GL2 0RR

Enjoy a Kids Breakfast (toast, bacon, sausage, beans, hash brown), activities, meet Santa to share your Christmas wishes and receive present. (Don't forget your camera!!)

Cost: £6 per child, £3 per adult (drink & bacon sandwich)

Tickets available from:
Tel: 07432073325 or
email: stcatharinesunderfives@live.co.uk

Please advise of any dietary requirements when ordering tickets

Registered Charity No 1051904



"Christmas Crafts"

Hosted by **Teddy & the Beast**

Come and join us at St Catharine's Parish Church Hall and indulge in the Christmas Crafts we have on offer:

- Christmas Cookie ingredients packaged into a bespoke personalised jar.
- Bespoke Christmas decorations

Create 'n' Craft
Saturday 7th December 2019
1pm-3pm

At St Catharine's Parish Hall,
London Road, Gloucester
GL2 0RR

Food & drinks available to purchase at all events

Cost: £10 per person

Tickets available from:
Tel: 07432073325 or
email: stcatharinesunderfives@live.co.uk



Gloucester Lottery

To start supporting, visit:
www.gloucesterlottery.co.uk
and search for: St Catharines

Give a little back this Christmas

*Lottery gift cards also available

- * Your support makes a real difference to our playgroup
- * 60p from EVERY £1 goes to playgroup
- * You also get the chance to win £25,000
- * Lottery gift cards make great presents

*Terms & conditions apply – see website Supporters must be 16 years of age or older



Our donation tree has grown at playgroup! Located in the corridor. Please use it to request items you may be looking for e.g. if your child has grown out of their wellies and coat and you need a bigger one, please write it on a leaf and add to

the tree with your name.

If you happen to pick up any items we need when you are shopping, we would be grateful for your donation.



There is always lots to look forward to at our Stay and Play Sessions held every Wednesday during term time. 9:30am – 11am.

Running up to Christmas we will be holding :-

4th December: Christmas present making... Look out for a special visitor

11th December : Christmas Cards

18th December : Christmas party... Look out for a special visitor



Find more updates on our Stay and Play Facebook page which can be found at www.facebook.com/Stayandplayatstcaths

POST CHRISTMAS CRAFT CLEAR OUT

During the Christmas season we gather a lot of Christmas crafts. If you have any that you wish to dispose of, please think of St Catharine's Under Fives as they are always grateful of any donations they receive.

HEAD LICE

We have had a report of head lice at playgroup. Please can you check your children regularly to ensure they do not have head lice and treat any cases as soon as possible to prevent any spread to other children.

EXTRA SESSIONS

Are you looking to extend hours or to add a day, please get in touch we still have some availability.

Christmas Extra Sessions – Do you need extra time to do your Christmas Shopping? St Catharine's Under Fives Playgroup can help. We have places available during sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at playgroup from Tuesday 3rd December 2019. If you would like to book a place, please write your child's name on the noticeboard at playgroup or email stcatharinesunderfives@live.co.uk and make payment of the extra session fee on the day. Happy Shopping.



UNIFORM

T shirts for sale and jumpers. Order form on noticeboard.



SPARE CLOTHES

Please can you make sure your child has a spare set of clothing with them every day that they attend playgroup. We have a limited supply of emergency clothes but cannot always guarantee finding the corresponding item of clothing for the one that needs changing.

HATS and GLOVES

Now that the weather is getting colder, please can you supply your children with hats and gloves to wear at playgroup when they go outside to play.



Can you help? Are you able to spare 10 minutes at the end of the day to come and help tidy up, do some washing up or sign up on the Parent Rota sheet to help during a session. Please let a member of know. Thank You

REMINDERS

- Only water in water bottles please.
- If your child is attending playgroup at **any** time on a Monday, Thursday or Friday then you will need to provide a **packed lunch** for them. These should be healthy and 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 – especially any mobile numbers for friends or grandparents. Don't forget to notify us of any further changes!
- Please ensure your child arrives on time to playgroup, as arriving late is not only disruptive to the rest of the group during register, it can be extremely unsettling for the child.

IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT US....

Please try the playgroup mobile number first – 07432 073325 – during playgroup hours.

For all admissions, finance and admin queries, please phone TINA on 07870874592

Check out our webpage at:

<http://stcatharinesunderfives.org.uk/>

Check out our page: 

www.facebook.com/StCatharinesUnder5s

Check out our TWITTER page at:



[St Catharine's U5s @StCatharinesU5s](https://twitter.com/StCatharinesU5s)

