

# NEWSLETTER – April 2018

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May – Closed bank holiday**  
**Week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> May – Sponsored Bike ride week**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Last day of term**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June – First day back of term**  
**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Summer Fete**  
**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Sports Day**  
**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Leavers Trip**  
**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July Leavers Play**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Leavers Party**  
**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Last day of school year**  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July – INSET Day**

### CONTACT DETAILS

Please keep us up to date with new telephone numbers, if you need to add or change any contact details please speak to a member of staff.

Please could parents regularly check blue bags for letters, invites and penny bags and write in the green book any messages you have for us.

### SUMMER TERM PLAYGROUP ACTIVITIES

This term the children have enjoyed story making. They have explored 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear', 'Rosie's Walk' & 'Rosie's Chick'. We will soon be moving onto our new story 'Paper Dolls'. Look out for our chicken coop made by the children. The children will be searching for eggs laid this week. We anticipate them finding plastic eggs with surprises, chocolate eggs and real eggs so that we can bake a cake.

We are enjoying our new equipment bought with fundraising money. This includes new tables, a book trolley and mobile storage discovery trolley with mirror.

Our pre-schoolers are progressing well in their independence skills. We are very proud of them. They come into session independently (children are all at various stages but are all making good progress), they listen to others with interest, share resources and play with purpose. They line up without help to go outside and work together to write their rules for safe use of equipment in P.E. We have also used a knife and fork at snack time so that they are capable of using them when ready for school dinners. The children enjoyed baked beans on wholemeal toast. Next week the children will be having spaghetti on wholemeal toast as requested!

This term we are also thinking about the leavers play which the pre-schoolers write themselves, incorporating all the stories we have enjoyed together.

If anyone can spare any time to help clean toys/tidy cupboards, we would be very grateful. Staff started this during Inset day, but there is still more to do.

### LEARNING JOURNALS

Please could anyone who took home learning journeys and assessments at the end of last term ensure that they are brought back to playgroup as soon as possible.

### HOT WEATHER

Being positive, we are happy for the weather to improve. So please ensure your child is sent in with Sun cream applied, a named sun hat, closed shoes and a named small spare sun cream to keep at playgroup.

## SPONSORED BIKE RIDE WEEK

The week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 we will be holding a sponsored bike ride week .. The children will have the opportunity to bring their bikes or scooters to playgroup and ride them in the outside play area. Watch out for letters coming home with more details.



## SUMMER FETE

The summer fete is fast approaching and we would love to have as much involvement from playgroup as possible. If you can make a cake, help set up, run a stall or help us pack away at the end of the long day, please let us know. We will have sign-up sheets at playgroup towards the end of next week so keep your eyes peeled for this.

## TO CONTINUE ....

As you are aware St Catharine's Under 5s is a charity run playgroup and in order to run this way it means we must have a team of volunteers ranging from parents, to grandparents of children at the playgroup or Stay and Play; as the committee. Naturally volunteers move on as their own children grow up and transfer to school and so those on the committee change.

Our committee must always have at least 5 members for the playgroup to continue running year on year. Within those roles we must also have a chairperson, secretary and treasurer.

At the end of this school year we will sadly be saying goodbye to two of our members and are seeking to replace these positions for playgroup to continue. Naturally this happens every so many years.

However, we must have these positions filled to continue to operate. One of the positions that needs to be filled is the role of treasure. We are very lucky as a playgroup to have a finance administrator; therefore, the traditional role of the treasurer is slightly different for us.

If you worry that the role could mean a lot of commitment, you can do as much or little as you like. We have meetings each term, fundraise and run Stay and Play. There is huge flexibility to commit only what you can.

If you have ever wondered what it all entails, think maybe this is for you or just want a bit more information, please do get in touch or come along to our next committee meeting on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.



**Play Gloucester Lottery and Support our Cause!**

- Join the rest of the community and make where we live even better
- Win prizes of up to £25,000 EVERY WEEK!
- Choose our cause when you sign up and we get 50% of every ticket
- At least 60% goes to good causes in the local area
- Tickets only cost £1 per week and it only takes a minute to join

**Click here to support today**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

## GLOUCESTER LOTTERY

Thank you so much to all those that have already supported us by signing up to the Gloucester lottery, we receive the names of those supporting so thank you; even the staff are signed up and supporting the fundraising on top of the amazing work they do daily with our little ones. If you haven't already but are interested please take a look, and remember you could be in with a chance of winning yourselves:

<https://www.gloucesterlottery.co.uk/support/st-catharines-under-fives-playgroup>

## SENSORY GARDEN

Now the weather is behaving a little more, work is going to start on the sensory garden. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible. If you are able to spare any time to do any painting, clearing, crafting, gardening or carpentry work please do get in touch; this is a project being lead by the parents and carers, so we would love you to get involved. We have a wish list of things to acquire such as pallets, paint, soil and we will send this out in an email or post on the Facebook page. If you would like to get involved with this project, please get in touch through Bethan (Isobelle's mum) or Sarah (Clemmy's mum) or contact our Facebook page. Watch this space for updates as we go along.

## DPA FORMS

If you have not returned your DPA consent form, please can you do as soon as possible so that we have all parental consent in place for the new GDPR regulations that come in place on 25<sup>th</sup> May. Many thanks.

## UNIFORM

If you require any more St Catharine's uniform with the playgroup logo for the summer term or for returning in September, please place your order with Tina or Michelle. T shirts are £6, and jumpers are £10.

## SNACK DONATIONS

Thank you for your snack donations: we always welcome donations of healthy, long-life snack items to replenish our cupboard: crackers, dried fruit, rice cakes, bread sticks etc. Snack is always provided for the children whether you are able to donate or not, and, unlike some other settings, we do not charge extra for it. So if you see those BOGOF offers, please keep us in mind!

## SPARE CLOTHES

Please can you make sure your child has a spare set of clothing with them when 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.

## 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:** **facebook**.

[www.facebook.com/StCatharinesUnder5s](http://www.facebook.com/StCatharinesUnder5s)

**Check out our TWITTER page at:**

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

