

# Shaw Ridge Playgroup Newsletter

Term 1 - September - October 2017

**IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING TO BE IN PLAYGROUP FOR ANY REASON,  
PLEASE RING US/TEXT AND LET US KNOW - 07712 713369**

Week Commencing	Sound of the Week	Colour of the Week
4 <sup>th</sup> September	S	BLUE
11 <sup>th</sup> September	A	RED
18 <sup>th</sup> September	T	YELLOW
25 <sup>th</sup> September	P	PINK
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	I	GREEN
9 <sup>th</sup> October	N	PURPLE
16 <sup>th</sup> October	S	ORANGE

## **WELCOME**

Welcome back to our returning families and a warm welcome to our new starters, we look forward to getting to know you all better in the upcoming weeks. Our sessions have been quieter for the first 2 weeks as we have had our inductions; all children will be in for their normal sessions from w/c 18<sup>th</sup> September.

## **TERM DATES**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. We then have a week off for the end of term and return to playgroup to start Term 2 Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## **WOW WALL - IMPORTANT**

We have a "WOW WALL" on our display board in the playgroup room. Each child will have their own A3 sized space on the wall and we would like your help as parents too! These spaces will be used to celebrate achievements and good work. For example:

- \* they will hold any WOW moments you send in
- \* we can display copies of any certificates your child may get from other clubs they go to - e.g. swimming/gym/football certificates etc.
- \* they could bring in a postcard of where they have been on holiday or a photo of where they have been
- \* if they do a fab/art drawing etc. at home please send it in so we can add it -

These are just some suggestions - you are welcome to send anything in to display. **We would really like to display a photo of their family to help your child identify their space. By sending in a photo you are giving permission for it to be displayed in the room. Please send in your family photo as soon as possible.** We will be encouraging the children to share these with you on stay and play sessions etc.

## **GRANDPARENTS AND FAMILY STAY AND PLAY**

This term we will be holding 1 stay and play session on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. To celebrate Grandparent's Day (which is Sunday 1<sup>ST</sup> October) and we will be inviting the children to bring in their families, including grandparents if they wish, for a special stay and play session. More details to follow!

## FUNDING FORMS

Swindon Borough have now changed the funding forms, so we will be sending the new ones out for you to fill in. Please ensure you complete them and return by the date requested. If we do not have these on file I'm afraid you will be invoiced for your child's sessions at the cost of £4.00 per hour. (So much cheaper for you to sign and return!)

## PHOTOGRAPHER

We have Terry Ferris booked to come and take individual portraits of the children on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. These make great Christmas presents and the playgroup receive commission for all purchases. Please add the date to your diary, again, more details nearer the time.

## AGM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As you are all aware, we are a parent run committee playgroup. We have had a fabulous committee over the past year; and I am delighted (and VERY grateful!) that they are all willing to stay on for a second year. We are still required to hold an AGM and we will be emailing shortly with a date and further details. Should you wish to join our committee and have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the ladies. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WITHOUT A FULL COMMITTEE THE PLAYGROUP WILL SHUT AS IT IS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT.**

## TAPESTRY

Hopefully all our new starters have now had a chance to log on and have a look. Tapestry enables you to follow your child's individual progress closely and you can reflect upon their achievements with your child. You can add comments so that we as a staff find out about which activities your child really enjoyed and the learning they get up to at home. Staff will reference your child's learning to the EYFS guidance so you will know which area of learning your child is achieving in and the age-band they were working in for that activity. All of this information is stored on a highly secure server which is monitored closely. I cannot stress enough that Tapestry works at its best when it is a two-way communication. The children all absolutely love looking the photo's you as parents upload of the things you have been doing at home as a family. We get so much language and conversation from the children as they tell us what they have been doing; it's absolutely brilliant! So please, please, contribute to it as often as you can. If you have any difficulties using it, just speak to us.

## URGENTLY NEEDED!

We would like some vinegar, food colouring and baking soda donations please so that we can make magic potions with the children. They don't have to be branded, supermarket cheap own brands will be great - many thanks in advance.

## LABELLING

We cannot *stress enough* the importance of you labelling **EVERYTHING** your child brings into playgroup please! When you are faced with 2 identical coats both aged 3 it is hard for the children and staff to know who they belong to. Please also label hats, cardigans, hoodies, lunchboxes etc.

**We also have a few coats which have other children's names in them who don't actually attend the playgroup, please could you amend them?**

## INFORMATION FOLDER

This is kept on the table under the noticeboard; with lots of very useful guidance/leaflets for you.

## HONESTY LENDING LIBRARY

We have a box of books in the lobby which you are very welcome to borrow and share at home with your child, just help yourself. Please remember to return them when you have finished so that other children can borrow them.

### DUAL LANGUAGE BOOKS FOR SHARING

Please do not forget we have a wide range of Dual Language books that you can now borrow from playgroup to share with your child. A list is displayed on the notice board. Please speak to the ladies if you require any further information or would like to borrow one.

### WEBSITE

Please take time to have a look, don't forget you can find lots of information such as policies, prospectus, term dates, information about the Early Years Foundation Stage and copies of newsletters. There is also a links page with lots of different websites which may be of help or interest to you: <http://shawridgeplaygroup.org.uk/>

### WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Whilst our main role is to provide care and education for your child, we would like to remind you that we are also here to offer support for our families. Should you require any help or guidance in any aspect of your child's welfare please come and talk to the ladies. We have a wide range of experience and training and if we are unable to help you directly we can certainly find out the details of someone who can! Any matters will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. **We can also offer support and guidance to enable you to support your child's Next Steps at home.**

### OPEN DOOR POLICY

Please remember that we have an open door policy, this means if you have any questions, concerns or queries, please just come and speak to one of the ladies. We are here to help! **If you need to talk to a member of staff at letting out time, we would respectfully ask that you wait until she has finished calling the children.**

### SHOW AND TELL

Show and Tell days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Your child can bring in anything they like to share with us and they will receive a special stamp. If it starts with our sound of the week or is the colour of the week, even better, they get 2 stamps!!

*Show and tell is a very important part of your child's development as it encourages:*

- \*Good listening skills\**
- \*Turn taking\**
- \*Self confidence\**
- \*Speaking in groups\**
- \*Awareness of self and others\**

Please encourage your child to participate!

### WANTED PLEASE:

**More donations of any of the following would be hugely appreciated!**

TISSUES (we still use so many boxes of these!!)

PAPER

GLUE STICKS

NEWSPAPERS

PLAYDOUGH

Thank you!

**THE PLAYGROUP LADIES**