



KINETON PLAYGROUP NEWSLETTER

30 January 2025

LEARNING AT PLAYGROUP

The Chinese New Year Celebrations have been in full swing this week. Our role play area has become a Chinese Restaurant which serves some very delicious food. Some of us even tried chop sticks! There has been a lot of craft including making lanterns and our very own spiral snake decorations. At story time we have read about what Chinese New Year is and how it is celebrated. We have started looking at what we love about friends and family in preparation for Valentines.

PLAYGROUP & KASC 'GOVERNORS' (AKA BOARD MEMBERS) & FUNDRAISING

We need people to join the Playgroup Board and to help us with fundraising activities. If you are interested in finding out more or have any fundraising ideas, please speak to Carol or Tor.

NEW SCHOOL PERIMETER FENCING & WORKS TO PLAYGROUP GARDEN

Work begins on the new school fencing next week, starting around the Forest School area, then the back field, before working on the area around the KS1 field during half term. This means there will be no Forest School sessions until after half term. We are also getting a new roof for the Playgroup outside classroom/den.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD

As parents we all worry about whether we are doing things right, and think others are doing a better job. There is no such thing as a perfect parent and we all do the best that we can, learning as we go along. Warwickshire have produced free online guides to help understand infant, child and young people's emotions and behaviour.

<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/parentguides>

PRE-SCHOOL BOOSTERS & CIRCULATING VIRUSES

We have been asked to remind everyone to check that their own and their child's vaccinations are up to date. Although measles gets the news headlines, remember that **MMR** also protects against rubella (formerly known as German measles) which can be catastrophic if contracted in pregnancy.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Norovirus is again in the increase in the community, with almost double the usual number of cases on a five year average. Please keep your child at home if they are at all unwell, and for at least 48 hours after the last 'episode', to prevent passing it on. A few cases of **chickenpox** have also been reported from other local settings, so do watch out for any suspicious spots! Children need to stay away from playgroup while poorly, but can return as soon as they feel well in themselves and all their spots have scabbed over (usually five to seven days from onset).

HOT DINNERS

Hot dinners at the primary school are available to all children attending full days from the age of 3, once they have settled in and are able to cope with the extra demands of a busy school hall. The cost is currently £3.20 per meal. Please let us know if you would be interested.

SAFEGUARDING - STAYING SAFE & HEALTHY LEARNING TO BE INDEPENDENT, HEALTHY & SAFE

Throughout their time at playgroup and KASC, we encourage the children to be as independent as possible. We won't manage everything but we can try - and a little encouragement with the following can work wonders.

- Hand washing and drying is key to the prevention of spread of so many childhood infections and conditions (colds, sickness, worms, etc!). We wash hands regularly before snack and lunch times, after playing outside, after using the toilet, whenever our hands look dirty and at several other times during the day. We tell the children the dirt we can see isn't usually as nasty as the sneaky germs we can't see! It's very important to wash your hands all over and to dry them thoroughly afterwards.
- Encourage children to blow their noses into a tissue and then to put the tissue in a bin, rather than sniffing or wiping their noses on their sleeves.
- When we were younger we were taught to cough into our hand, but advice is now to cough into a tissue (and then bin it) or to cough into our elbow. This is to stop the infection route of germs being transferred from cough > hand > a toy or other surface > the next child's hand > infect the next child.
- Help children to take responsibility for their belongings by asking them to carry all their own things to and from playgroup and KASC sessions, and to find them at the end of sessions, eg allowing children to find their own lunch box on the way out
- Help your child recognise their own belongings. As well as writing their name, customise them with a keyring or a patterned ribbon for instant recognition (a lot of children have exactly the same uniform or lunch box)
- At home encourage your child to find toys and clothes on their own and to tidy them away when they have finished playing - this is something to aim for!
- Allow your child to make safe choices - give them a choice of two options (more just makes them cross). Does it matter that the red trousers don't go with the pink top?
- Provide clothes that your child can manage to get on and off on their own (elastic waists, zips not buttons, velcro not laces), and encourage them to manage their own clothes whenever they get dressed or undressed - they are really proud of themselves when they can do it
- (Getting a bit basic here). Support children to go to the toilet on their own - e.g. wiping their own bottom (front to back for girls), stand up wees for boys (with some direction control!) and pulling their clothes down far enough so that they don't get wet or dirty (for everyone). Of course we remind the children and help them, especially if they are just learning, but we work towards them being able to do these things for themselves - it's really not appropriate for us to inspect bottoms on a regular basis.

Spring term 2025: Tuesday 07 January to Friday 11 April 2025
Half term: Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2025
Summer term 2025: Monday 28 April to Friday 18 July 2025
Half term: Monday 26 to Friday 30 May 2025
Autumn term 2025: First day of term - Wednesday 03 September 2025 (tbc)

