



The Treehouse Pre-School, 1 Coxhill Way, Aylesbury,
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Newsletter –Spring Term 2019:

Welcome to the Spring Term in playgroup – a warm welcome to those of you who are with us for the first time this term. We have a Facebook page which can be found at 'Southcourt Baptist Church Playgroup' and we will continue to post any updates or points of interest on there.

At the end of this letter you will see all the important dates for this term – please do keep this in a safe place so you know what activities are going on.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in playgroup. Without the support of all of you Playgroup simply would not happen.

It is unbelievable to think we have now been in our new building for three years. At the time of moving in we had the opportunity to change our name, however, with all that the move entailed we did not feel the time was right for this. We now feel really settled in the building and over the past six months or so have been considering new names which really identify who we are. This has not been easy and there were many options, however we have now settled on a new name and from Thursday February 14th we will be known as “The Treehouse Pre-School.” We have also been taking time to work on putting together a website for our new start and from Thursday 7th February this can be viewed at: www.thetreehousepre-school.org. We are opening this up early for you all to look at and if you have any feedback or any other things you feel you would like to see on the website please do let us know.

Help Required:

Library: We now have two parents who are helping with our Library. If any of you are looking for a way to become involved in playgroup life we could really do with some help with our library on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.. This would mean being available from 9.30 each day until all library books which have been returned are changed (maximum time of 30 minutes). Please talk to Claire or Caryn if you could help in this way.

Clothing: Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as we do go out in all weathers. It is helpful for you to supply named wellies for your child. Also remember to **label items your child brings into playgroup as much as possible**. Coats, jumpers, sunhats and footwear should all be labelled as it is very difficult to return these to you if it is unnamed. Please do check the outside coat trolley for any missing outdoor clothes.

Nappies/Potty Training: If your child is in nappies, please do ensure you have enough nappies in their bag on their peg. If your child is in all day they will be changed twice each day (more often if

needed). If you feel your child is ready for Potty Training, please do talk with us as we can support you with this in Playgroup. We have a leaflet we have developed which we can give to you.

Home/Playgroup Diaries: A big thank you to those of you who use the green home/playgroup diaries for your child. We really do find them useful and hope that you do too. If you haven't got a home/playgroup diary for your child, please do ask your child's key worker for one.

For Information:

Planning for your Child: We have now been doing the "In the Moment Planning" for a term. This is working well and a big thank you to all who are returning the sheets which we send home when your child is a focus child. If you have any questions or would like to know more please talk to your child's key worker.

Maths and Literacy Home Learning Bags: We have both Maths and Literacy Home Learning Bags for you to use with your child at home. Please do take advantage of these great resources. You can take or return these bags on Monday, Wednesday's or Friday when Michelle is here to sign them in or out for you.

Acts of Worship: We continue to welcome Iain Nash to Playgroup who is the Children's Pastor in the church. Iain leads some short Acts of Worship in Playgroup which involves a Bible Story (usually using his Puppet Colin who the children love) and singing along whilst playing guitar. The children really do enjoy these activities.



Smile +: Thank you to all who attended the Smile+ workshops held in the Autumn Term where our focus was on toothbrushing. Please do let us know if anything works well when encouraging your child to brush their teeth.

DID YOU KNOW?..... just one or two everyday swaps can really make a difference to how much sugar your child is having, while still keeping them happy? Children in England are eating an extra 2,800 sugar cubes a year, which is more than double the recommended guidelines. That's 8 cubes too many each day!

30 Hours: We are continuing to offer up to 25 hours of child care in Playgroup in line with the government's offer for eligible families of 3 and 4 year olds. Further details on all the childcare support options and eligibility can be found at <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk>. If you know you are eligible for this and have an eligibility code please do let us know as soon as possible. **If you are eligible for the 30 hour funding you do have to recheck your eligibility yourselves every three months. Failure to do so may result in the provision being withdrawn.**

Tax-Free Childcare: As a setting we have signed up to the Government's Tax-Free Childcare Scheme.

Attendance: If your child is not going to be in playgroup for any reason we do need you to let us know. Either a phonecall on 01296 434541 or an email to claire@southcourt.org. If we are not informed this may lead to your child's funding being withdrawn. In any event we will call you if your child is not in to see where they are.

Please ensure you do bring your child into playgroup and collect them on time, and, if someone else is collecting your child inform Claire in the morning.

STAFF/Volunteer NEWS: Many of you will have met Becky who started working with us in October. She has fitted really well into the playgroup.

MOBILE PHONES: Just a reminder that Mobile phones are not permitted in the playgroup. This is part of our safeguarding policy. Please do not be offended if a member of staff asks you to turn it off or take your call outside.

Red/Blue Bags: The red/blue bags that stay in playgroup, are provided for you to keep a change of clothes in for your child and stay in playgroup. If you do bring a bag into playgroup of your child's choosing please ensure the same is clearly named. If you have any creams/medication in them such as nappy rash creams or sun cream these must be removed before leaving them on your child's peg as the children are able to access these bags constantly. Please ensure you have spare nappies/changes of clothes for your child in these bags. Please ensure if your child is in nappies that you replenish these in your child's bag regularly. Please do not place any food or drinks in these bags.

Useful websites:

Government: Ofsted: To view the latest Ofsted report online visit:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/CARE/EY496576>

Bucks County Council: Bucks County Council produce a Newsletter - this has some very helpful information and can be found at:

<https://extranet.buckscc.gov.uk/early-years/eyc-newsletter/>

Child Development: Communication: Whether you feel your child's speech, language and communication is developing as you feel it should or if you have any concerns these two websites have some good advice and activities for you to try.

www.speechteach.co.uk

Children's Centre Details:

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fds/service.page?id=1FEHF0VnLAI&childrenscentrechannel=37>

Child Health:

Play England and Change 4 Life: These two websites provide invaluable information in relation to the health and wellbeing of your child and are worth a look—both give very good suggestions in relation to activities you could do with your child.

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Change4Life/Pages/change-for-life.aspx>

Travel:

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/south-east/services/8---aylesbury-town-centre-to-bedgrove/>

www.chilternrailways.co.uk/

www.cycleaylesbury.co.uk/

Please do display this sheet at home so you can have dates to hand:

DATE/Time:	Event:
Wednesday 2 nd January	Home Visits
Thursday 3 rd January	Term Begins for all children
Tuesday 29 th January	Iain in for Act of Worship
Thursday 7 th February	Iain in for Act of Worship
Thursday 14 th February	THE TREEHOUSE PRE-SCHOOL Celebration – 09:30 a.m
Monday 18 th February – Friday 22 nd February (Inclusive)	Closed for Half Term
Wednesday 20 th February	Messy Church – 10:30 a.m
Wednesday 3 rd April	Last Day of Term for Children
Thursday 4 th April	New Starters Session/Planning (Staff only)
Friday 5 th April	Tidy Up (Staff Only)
Tuesday 23 rd April	Home/Visits
Wednesday 24 th April	Playgroup Re-Opens for all

Our Term Dates run in line with Buckinghamshire County Council. If you wish to look at dates further in advance please look at their Website:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/education/schools/term-dates-and-school-holidays-in-buckinghamshire/>

Please note if we do have to close due to inclement weather this will be advertised on the Bucks County Council Website and also the playgroup website.