



Methodist Church Hall, Claigmar Road, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 2NL

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www.rascalsplaygroup.co.uk.

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back after half term, we hope you all had a lovely week and are excited to be back!

We would like to draw your attention to a few updates and dates for your diaries:

Stay and Play - Monday 6th November

We would like to welcome our families to come along and play for the first 45 minutes of this session although we would ask that just one adult per child stays please to prevent it becoming too busy. Younger siblings are very welcome but will remain your responsibility whilst on the premises please.

If you can't make it to this session, please don't worry as we will be doing some other Stay and Play sessions throughout the year.

Children in Need

This year Children in Need takes place on **Friday 17th November**. We will be supporting this worthy cause by inviting the children to come dressed in their spotty clothes or fancy dress! There will be a collection box at the front entrance of Rascals on the day for your donations. We would suggest a donation of £1 but of course will be happy to pass on whatever contributions we receive.

School starters 2024

As the time draws closer to some of your little ones leaving us to move onto school, we are asking that once you have applied for your child's place, you let us know via email or message, which schools you have applied for please. This is just so that we are aware of possible school allocations, and we can start to get organised for when the time comes for the children to transition to school.

Please note the deadline for applying for a school place for next September is **Monday 15th January 2024**. We look forward to hearing from those families this relates to. If you have any worries, concerns or problems applying for a school place please let us know as soon as possible so that we can discuss this with you in plenty of time before the deadline.

Reading books

For those children who are moving onto school next year, we will be sending home a reading book each week, beginning next week, for you to share at home together. Your child will bring home a reading folder with a book and a reading record sheet. Please feel free to write one short comment each week about whether or not you were able to read and if your child enjoyed the book.

We are not expecting children to be learning to read whilst they are with us, although some children do show a great interest and can begin to recognise some familiar letters and words, but this process is much more about spending time looking at books together and chatting about the stories. It is also about showing children how to handle books carefully, turning the pages on their own and guessing what might happen next.

Your child's key person will change their book on the same day every week and this will be shown on your child's book bag so you know which day to return it.

Parent consultations:

We will be holding our Parents evening on the **Wednesday 22nd November** and this will be held in the Coffee Lounge which is the door to the left of the main Rascals entrance. This runs from 5.15pm and your child's key person should now have been in touch to arrange a time for this, if you are unsure please ask one of the team who will be able to help you. This is a great opportunity to sit down with your child's key person and discuss your child's progress and have a chance to see their Learning Journal of all they have been doing at Rascals. If you are unable to make this date please let us know so that we can arrange another date.

Diwali crafts

Next week (**11th and 12th November**) we will be celebrating Diwali with the children and creating our own colourful biscuits to be eaten at snack time. Any dietary requirements will be discussed with individual families and we look forward to this activity with the children. Photos will be taken to add to their Learning Journals so that we can share their creations!

Photographer

A photographer will be visiting Rascals on **Monday 13th November** for the morning. Children who are not usually in on this day are welcome to be brought in with their parents/carers at 10.30 to take part in this and have their photos taken too. These will be Christmas themed and we look forward to seeing how the children enjoy this.

Christmas Plans

We are all getting very excited as we finalise our plans for Christmas.

We are planning on performing a short nativity with some songs in the church on **Friday 8th December** at approximately 12pm. All children will be invited for that whole morning, so if your child doesn't usually attend on a Friday, you are invited to bring them along at 9.30am so they can join in the fun.

We will be having a party snack on the same day (taking into account all dietary needs).

The church doors will open at approximately 11.50am but will then be closed at 12pm in order to maintain safety for our children. There will be no restrictions on numbers of people attending this service so we look forward to seeing our families coming to watch.

As we have some very young children and some children who may find it challenging to be on the stage, we want the church to be a safe space, so all doors will be closed and we will be letting those children who need to have a little walk around, do so whilst we do our best to keep as many children on the stage as possible!

We won't know until the day of the nativity who is going to be wearing which costume as the children will be deciding that for themselves on the day. Equally, if they don't wish to wear a costume, that is fine too.

I think you'll agree it should be a very interesting performance and one which we can't wait to share with you.

Christmas jumper week

On the last week of term, we invite the children to wear a Christmas jumper / top / dress on the day of their choice. This will run from **Monday 11th December until the last day of term on Friday 15th December**.

Car Parking and Children's safety:

Just a reminder that as other church users are sometimes on the premises at the same time as us, there may be vehicles moving in and out of our small car park at busy times. Please be extra vigilant with your children when walking from one car park to the other.

Please keep the Ministers allocated parking space free at ALL times – Thank you.

Dates for your diary:

Stay and Play – **Monday 6th November**

Children in Need – **Friday 17th November**

Parent's Evening- **Wednesday 22nd November**

Nativity / Christmas party snack – **Friday 8th December**

Christmas clothes – **Week beginning Monday 11th December**

Last day of term - **Friday 15th December**

First Day of Spring Term – **Tuesday 2nd January**

Deadline for Applying to Schools – **Monday 15th January**

Half term week – 12th February to 16th February

All this information and lots more can be found on our website –

www.rascalsplaygroup.co.uk

For regular updates please LIKE us on Facebook -

www.facebook.com/RascalsPreSchoolPlaygroup

Thank you for your continued support.

The Rascals Team