



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

Tel: 07546 584314 Email: rascalsplaygroup@gmail.com

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:

Link to Hope Shoebox appeal

We will again be supporting the Shoebox appeal within the church this year and are looking for the following items please: small toys (yo-yo, cars, marbles, skipping ropes), new socks/tights, safety razors, head scarves, new combs/hairbrushes, nail clippers, colouring pens/pencils and books, notebooks, small cuddly toys (with CE label), flannels or small bottles shampoo (less than 300ml).

There will be a collection box at the front entrance of Rascals, we would appreciate any donations that you can spare by Friday 12 November. We will then pass these onto the church ready for them to pack on Saturday 13th November.

Children in Need

This year Children in Need takes place this **Friday 19th 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.

Car Parking and Children's safety:

Please could we offer a reminder that the car park on the far side of the church is for your use when collecting and dropping off your children only and please note that other church members will also be using this car park at various times now that the church premises are opening up again to more groups. Please could we ask that you are vigilant with your children in the car park now that other users are present and please be aware that these other users will now be sharing the car park again.

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

Toothbrushing

The Early Years Foundation Stage was recently updated and part of the change to the Statutory framework now includes a requirement for us to teach the children about oral health and hygiene.

In order for us to do this meaningfully we have purchased lots of little toothbrushes for the children and from Monday next week we will be encouraging those children who stay for lunch to brush their teeth after they have eaten.

We will be using a dry brushing method whereby the children will be given a very tiny smear of paste on their brush so there will be no need to rinse or spit at the sink.

Each child has their own toothbrush, and they will be stored in a rack to keep them separate.

The brushes will be rinsed after use and left to air dry during the afternoon before being stored in a secure cupboard overnight.

We realise this will be a new feature for the children and we will just be encouraging them to join in, and we certainly won't be insisting if they don't wish to.

Claire B has created some nice pictures and resources for the children to explore also so we are hoping it will gradually become just another part of our routine on a Monday and Tuesday lunch time.

If you do have any questions or concerns at all, please get in touch with us.

Parent consultations:

As mentioned in an earlier email this week, these will take place on Wednesday 24th November and you will shortly be receiving an appointment time from your key person.

Photographer

We have secured a booking with the photographers for Monday 15th November. They will be with us all morning and will take their time to make sure each child is seen at some point during the morning.

If your child doesn't attend on a Monday and you would like to have their photo taken, please call in at 9.30am in order that they can be seen first.

Christmas Plans

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

At this stage we are very hopeful that we can offer some sort of performance in the church on Friday 10th December at approximately 12pm. All children will be invited, so if your child doesn't usually attend on a Friday, you will be invited to bring them along at 11.30am so they can join in.

Due to Covid restrictions only **ONE** adult per child will be given access to the church (younger siblings will be permitted) and entry will be strictly monitored at the door. We will be asking you to wear a mask whilst you are in the church, and everyone will be asked to sanitise their hands as they arrive.

We are hoping to be able to video this event in order for you to share with other members of your family after the event but obviously need permission from all families that they agree to this before we do so.

Therefore, a letter will be sent out to you all in the next couple of weeks detailing our plans and asking you to sign a permission slip in this respect.

We are sure you all understand that this could all change if the Government makes any changes to the Covid guidelines, but we wanted you to know our current plan.

Christmas Cards and Postbox

In order to do our part towards being environmentally friendly, we would ask that children don't bring along Christmas cards for all their friends and staff but instead if they would like to make one Christmas Card addressed to everyone then they are welcome to post this in our Christmas post box which will be available from the end of November and we will display the cards in the hall for all the children to see.

The post-box will be available from Monday 6th December.

Dates for your diary:

Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal – **donations by Friday 12th November**

Children in Need – **Friday 19th November**

Parents Consultation – **Wednesday 24th November**

Availability of post-box for homemade Christmas cards – **Monday 6th December – Thursday 16th December**

Last day of term - **Friday 17th December**

First Day of Spring Term – **Monday 10th January**

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

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