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www.rascalsplaygroup.co.uk

Newsletter – Summer Term 2021

Welcome to the Summer Term at Rascals.

This is the third and final newsletter issued during this academic year. The previous newsletters and a copy of this one can be found on our website www.rascalsplaygroup.co.uk.

We update our website regularly with important information and useful dates so please do check regularly. We also post reminders and useful information on our facebook page www.facebook.com/RascalsPreSchoolPlaygroup so please feel free to LIKE us for regular updates and information in your newsfeed. This should enable you to have access to all the information you need when you need it.

Staffing:

Tracey - Manager & Treasurer
Hayley - Supervisor (Senco/Inco)
Claire - Supervisor (Senco/Inco)
Claire B - Senior Assistant
Sam - Senior Assistant
Alana - Assistant

Volunteers: Julie

Term Dates:

Summer Term 2021

Term begins: Monday 19th April 2021

Term ends: Friday 16th July 2021

Half Term Week: 31st May – 4th June

Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May

Rascals CLOSED: Thursday 6th May

Re-scheduled date: Wednesday 5th May

Claimar Road Closure on Tuesday 4th May

There will be a road closure on Tuesday 6th May from 09.30-15.30. The closure is to allow an engineer to access the telecoms mast on the Claimar Road for urgently required repairs and maintenance. You will be able to access our church car park by turning right off Broadmark Lane (past Waitrose on your left) into Claimar Road but please be aware it may get busy during drop off and picking up times.

Rascals CLOSURE on Thursday 6th May, re-scheduled to OPEN on Wednesday morning 5th May

Due to the current Covid situation the local Elections that usually take place in the coffee lounge will now take place in the main hall this year so that a one-way system can be put in place, which isn't possible in the coffee lounge.

Therefore, we will be OPEN on **Wednesday 5th May (9.30-12.30)** as a re-scheduled date so that your child doesn't miss out. If you haven't replied to our email regarding this, please can you confirm **ASAP** if your child is able to attend the session on Wednesday morning – thank you.

Photographer

We have the photographer provisionally booked for Friday 14th May. We will be confirming with them in the next few days and will let you know details once we have a confirmed booking. We are hoping they will take a group photo as well as the normal individual photos.

Forest School

We are extremely excited to have booked a visit for our oldest children to the forest school at Summerlea school on **Wednesday 14th July**. Unfortunately, we cannot extend this visit to our younger children but we hope to repeat it next year and they will then have their chance to attend. Further information will follow shortly to those families that this relates to.

Sun Cream

We are looking forward to spending as much time as possible outside this term and we are hoping the weather will continue to warm up! Even though it is still a little chilly, when the sun does come out it is very strong and we would ask that you send your child to playgroup with a named sun hat. We would also ask that you start applying sun lotion to your children before they come to playgroup in the mornings. As you can imagine we simply don't have enough hands or time to apply lotion to every child so we would really appreciate your support. It is also a good idea to bring sun cream (clearly named) to playgroup with your child, so that if your child is staying on for an afternoon session or have been playing in the water and we feel we need to re-apply some more lotion we can do.

Spare clothes

Could we please remind **all** parents/carers to bring spare clothes for your child. We do get very messy and wet at Rascals and will need to change the children at various times. It is also great practise for the children in preparation for school to get their own bag and to change their clothes.

School Readiness

As we prepare to say a sad farewell to our older children we thought it would be beneficial to reflect on how at Rascals we help to prepare the children for school and how you too can help them at home.

At Rascals we promote your child's independence from the moment they start with us. Within our supportive environment, your child is encouraged to think and act for themselves.

Toilet independence: Once your child is fully toilet trained they are encouraged to use the toilet and maintain their personal hygiene independently.

Personal Belongings: Your child is encouraged to look after their own belongings. They are encouraged to hang up their own coat and bag and to collect them at the end of the morning.

Getting Dressed: Your child is encouraged to dress themselves. Taking off and putting on their own coat and shoes and will practice this through various dressing up and role play opportunities. (Please try and purchase shoes for your child that they can manage themselves).

Free flow: Your child is encouraged to explore their own interests and are given the opportunity to access a variety of resources to support their learning.

1 to 1 Reading sessions: In the academic year before your child starts school, they will have regular 1 to 1 reading sessions with their key person. They will have the opportunity to take the books home for the week to share with parents / carers.

School Role Play: We have a school role play area at Rascals throughout the year. This is more frequently set up during the summer term so the children become more familiar with the school uniforms that they will be encountering in their new schools.

Lunch Time: Those children who stay for full day sessions (Mondays and Tuesdays) have the opportunity to eat lunch together twice a week and this is an opportunity for the children to practice eating their lunch independently in a social situation.

Liaise with local schools: We maintain close links with local schools and annually review transition arrangements.

Teacher Visits: We usually invite the local schools to visit Rascals to meet their new intake however, in view of Covid restrictions this may not be possible again this year.

Top Tips for Starting School:

- Involve your child in the process of buying uniform and other necessities for school.
- Encourage your child to dress and put on their shoes and coats independently.
- Encourage your child to manage their own personal hygiene after using the toilet such as teaching your child to wipe their own bottom and hand washing.
- Talk about starting school together BUT don't refer to it as starting 'BIG' school as this can prove intimidating. Instead use the schools name or refer to it by the colour of its uniform.
- Read books about starting school together

The following web links provide information and advice on developing the key skills your child needs to be school ready.

Pacey – Steps to Starting School Poster

<https://www.pacey.org.uk/Pacey/media/Website-files/PACEY%20general/Steps-to-starting-school.pdf>

nurseryresources.org – School Readiness Poster

<https://www.nurseryresources.org/product/school-readiness-poster>

Rascals occupancy list:

If you have a younger child or you know of someone who would like to put their child on our occupancy list to attend Rascals, please let Tracey know. We have a list for the next few years so it is important to register children as soon as possible.

Rascals fees and snack donations:

It is extremely helpful if you could pay your fees/ snack donations via bank transfer, particularly at the present time as it reduces the need for us to handle any money in the setting. However, if you do wish to pay by cash please continue to give any monies due in a clearly labelled envelope as we have found this very helpful in the past. You will receive an email confirming receipt of any cash paid.

If you pay your fees directly into our account, please ensure you quote your child's name as the reference.

In addition to this newsletter, you will find attached a Termly Reminders sheet which we hope you will find useful. We realise this is a lot of information to take in all at once but feel it is useful to provide you with as much detail as possible and hopefully this will answer some of the questions you may have. However, if there is anything you are unsure of or if you just need a bit of advice about something, please do speak to a member of staff who will be more than happy to help you.

We look forward to enjoying the Summer Term with you all.

THANK YOU.

THE RASCALS TEAM

Rascals mobile: 07546584314

Rascals email: rascalsplaygroup@gmail.com

[PLEASE NOTE: The Rascals mobile phone and email address are constantly monitored by Tracey. During out of hours and particularly over weekends and holidays you may not receive an immediate response. However, if you are contacting us with a matter of urgency an email is always the best form of communication]

TERMLY REMINDERS

Personal Details:

- Please ensure you inform us immediately of any change of details such as mobile phone numbers or other contact details for parents and your emergency contacts. It is essential that our records are kept up to date in case of emergencies.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL A MEMBER OF STAFF IF SOMEONE DIFFERENT IS COLLECTING YOUR CHILD FROM PLAYGROUP. WE WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO GO WITH ANYONE UNLESS WE HAVE YOUR PRIOR PERMISSION AND DETAILS ABOUT THAT PERSON. THIS APPLIES IN ALL CASES. WE WILL ALSO NOW BE OPERATING A PASSWORD SYSTEM FOR ANYONE WHO HAS NOT COLLECTED PREVIOUSLY SO PLEASE BE PREPARED TO THINK OF A SPECIAL WORD THAT YOU CAN SHARE WITH US AND YOUR ELECTED PERSON.

Change Bags:

- Please ensure that your child's bag is named clearly on the outside as some children do have similar bags and it is difficult for them to tell us which is theirs.
- Please always check your child's bag when you get home as used nappies or soiled clothes will be placed in there during the morning if necessary. Unfortunately, we do not have facilities to dispose of soiled nappies on the premises and therefore these will be placed into a nappy sack and put into your child's bag.

Clothing:

- Please make sure your child wears suitable clothing for the weather each day.
- It is important to send your child to playgroup with more than one set of spare clothes as they will most definitely get dirty at some point!
- Please ensure that you don't send them to playgroup in their best clothes or coat as the children need to feel free to explore and play.
- If the weather is warm and sunny please ensure you apply sun cream to your child before you bring them to playgroup as it does get very hot in the garden.
- PLEASE make sure you write your child's name clearly and visibly on all their belongings to avoid any confusion. Some children do enjoy taking their shoes and socks off whilst playing indoors so it would be helpful if you could clearly name their shoes.

Health and Safety:

- For safety reasons we prefer jewellery is not worn at playgroup. We do understand that the jewellery may be of cultural or religious significance and we are happy to make an exception for this. However, this will be at your own risk; as we are unable to take any responsibility for injury, damage or breakages. We would also ask that if your child has their ears pierced please could you ensure they wear plain studs for playgroup.

Food Allergies/Safety:

- We are a nut free zone, please could all parents refrain from putting nuts in your child's lunch, thank you.
- Some parents like to send sweets into playgroup when it is their child's birthday, however, please note we have to be a nut free zone and cater to all of the children's dietary requirements so please speak to a member of staff so that we are able to help to ensure all children can be included.
- Please also ensure that no food is left in your child's bag. If you need to bring them a packed lunch to have after playgroup please pass it to a member of staff who will keep it safe.
- Please also ensure you chop any food such as grapes, large blueberries, olives etc length ways or ideally quarters before putting them in your child's lunch. Also items such as sausage, cheese, cucumber, carrots should be cut into long thin strips rather than chunks.

Medicines in Playgroup:

Please be advised that any medical products needed at playgroup, **MUST** be given to a member of staff for us to store in our medical box in the Main Hall and paperwork will need to be completed.

Please could all parents check **NO** medical products are left in their child's rucksack on their peg during the course of the morning, as all the children do have free access to their pegs.

Illness:

Please, please **DO NOT** send your child to playgroup if they are unwell at all including small 'sniffles'. You will be asked to take them home again. We also ask you **NOT** to bring your child to Rascals if they have taken any medication in the morning. If they have suffered from diarrhoea or sickness please keep them at home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. This also applies to those children who have started a course of antibiotics.

Policies and Procedures:

Please ask a member of staff if there are any particular policies you would like to see so these can be forwarded to you electronically.

Car Parking and Children's safety:

Please remember not to use the Tesco or the front church car park, as the church staff and church members require access at all times. Please use the car park on the far side of the church at all times.

Please be aware of small and young children running around in both car parks.

Please ensure your child is fully supervised when waiting to come into playgroup in the morning. We have had experiences in the past where broken glass or other unsavoury litter has been found discarded on the church grounds and would not like any of the children to injure themselves.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Forest School - Wednesday 14th July

Summer and Leavers Celebration - Friday 23rd July (Last day)

Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June - HALF TERM