



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Half Term – Monday 21st – Friday 25th October
INSET Day (playgroup closed) – Friday 29th November
End of Term Party – Friday 20th December

Autumn Term Ends – Friday 20th December
Spring Term Starts – Tuesday 7th January 2020

Next Committee Meeting – TBC

Playgroup News



Toasting marshmallows on the campfire.

We would firstly like to welcome you all back to Chestnut Playgroup, and a big welcome to all our new families. The children have all settled in amazingly and we are very proud of the children supporting their new peers and already building new friendships.

We have had a very busy start to autumn term. Over this half term we have been looking at harvest, autumn and hibernation. We have had the pleasure of having Sarah Thorne come in to visit us from St Marys where she gave us a story on why people celebrate the harvest festival. We have also had some visits to Linton Library for Storytime and enjoying looking at and borrowing their books.

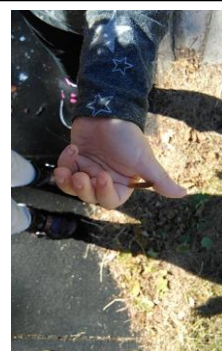


Enjoying Linton library story time.

The children have had a great time exploring our outdoor environment getting creative in the mud kitchen by using a range of natural resources to create some amazing soups. The children have shown a great interest in using the magnify glasses and going on bug hunts around the garden to see what bugs they can find such as caterpillars, spiders and LOTS of snails. They have loved making muddy puddles, digging holes and filling them with water and of course testing them out by jumping in them. The children have had a great time exploring in the water tray and investigating a variety of items that float and sink. The children have also been showing great teamwork by working together to build and construct dens using a variety of materials, its been great fun when it has been raining so the children can test out their building skills and see if they are waterproof.



Muddy puddles



Finding Caterpillars.

The playgroup has also joined in with 'slip into slippers', to help raise money for AGE UK, thank you to all those who donated for this great cause for our local community.

Next term is a very busy one with lots of celebrations coming up which we will be starting off with next week with Diwali. We will also do some activities around Halloween, but we tend to base these more around harvesting pumpkins and looking at minibeasts. The staff are busy planning activities and outings for this next half term. Parents are welcome to come in for stay and play sessions on the day your child is in to get an insight as to what your child is doing throughout the day. If you feel this is something you would like to do please speak to a member of staff, you are all very welcome to join us.

Best wishes

Chestnut Playgroup

Staff News

Dear parents/carers,

I have some updates on our staffing news.

As many of you know Louise had decided to leave Chestnut Playgroup after having a family bereavement, to focus more time on her family. We were delighted to hear Louise had decided she was ready to come back as bank and it's been lovely having her back in the setting with us this last week. Louise has since been thinking of her career and what path she wants to take. With this Louise has always shown a great interest in working with children with additional needs, she has been offered a place to work at Linton Granta School as a TA which I believe Louise will be amazing at and I think she will flourish in her new role. We would like to take this opportunity to wish her the very best of luck with her new career path.

Going forward it is with great pleasure that I can now confirm that after our interview process we will be employing 2 new members of staff. Emily will be starting with us on Monday 28th October and doing Mondays only and has been allocated 2 key children. Emily is currently attending university and has just started her primary teaching degree; she comes with a wealth of experience from being a room leader to managing a nursery.

We have also employed Kirsty. Kirsty will be working 4 days a week Tuesday-Friday. Kirsty will be starting with us on Tuesday 12th November and has been allocated 8 key children. Again, Kirsty comes with a wealth of experience.

There will be a new keyworker list in the foyer, and if your child has a keyworker with a new member of staff we will introduce you to them.

Bank Staff:

Sam.T and Sam.R

Monday: Charlene, Tracey, Emily, Kate, Sam.T (Bank to cover Charlene paperwork day)

Tuesday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty and Kate

Wednesday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty, Kate and Sam.R

Thursday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty, Teresa

Friday: Charlene, Tracey, Kirsty, Teresa and bank

Training

Staff have been booked onto do training, but they have not attended these as of yet. Once staff attend and complete training you will be informed.

Meetings

- Our previous staff meeting we discussed key children and staffing.
- The new release of the OFSTED inspection handbook which had been published in September.
- The new release of the Quality Framework, which is where we reflect on practice.
- Discussed Training that staff will be attending.

We will have our next cluster meeting with the Infants school in November.

At our next staff meeting we will be discussing outings and getting visitors into the setting. We believe that outings are a very big learning opportunity for the children and is a great opportunity for the children to get to know and learn more about their local community. For outings to be able to go ahead safely we do rely heavily on parent helpers, so if you feel you could spare some time to help with outings please speak to a member of staff, we would be very grateful.

Best Wishes

Charlene Hayes
Pre School Leader