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www.rascalsplaygroup.co.uk.

Newsletter – Summer Term 2024

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 also post regular 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.

Staff:

Tracey – Manager & Treasurer
Claire – Supervisor (Senco/Inco)
Hayley- Supervisor (Senco/Inco)
Sian – Senior Assistant
Alana – Senior Assistant
Hannah- Trainee Assistant
Bank Staff: Melanie, Charli, Lauren
Volunteers: Julie and Collette

Term Dates

Summer Term 2024

Term begins: Monday 15th April
Term ends: Friday 12th July
Half Term: 27th May – 31st May

Autumn Term 2024

Term begins: Monday 2nd Sept
Term ends: Friday 13th Dec
Half term 28th Oct- 1st November

Spring Term 2025

Term begins: Monday 6th Jan
Term ends : Friday 4th April
Half term: 17th- 21st Feb

Stay and play- change of date

Unfortunately we will no longer be holding a stay and play session on Friday 3rd May. We have had to make this decision due to the amount of new children we currently have in and the importance of allowing them time to settle without disruption to the routine they are still getting used to. We apologise for the inconvenience but we hope you can understand that ensuring all of the children are settled and happy at Rascals is so important and we must do all we can to support this. We will therefore hold our last stay and play of this academic year on **Friday 28th June** instead. You are very welcome to come in with your child and stay until 10.15am but PLEASE ENSURE YOU ASK A MEMBER OF STAFF TO LET YOU OUT. PLEASE DO NOT LET YOURSELF OUT.

Forest School

We are extremely excited to have booked a visit for our oldest children to the forest school at Summerlea school on **Wednesday 19th June**. 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 once they reach school leaver age. Further information will follow shortly to those families that this relates to.

Parent Consultations

Parent consultation evening has been booked for **Wednesday 5th June**. This provides us with an opportunity to discuss our plans for the following term for those who are staying with us and the children who are leaving to talk about any concerns you may have regarding your child starting school in September. We will be in the coffee

lounge from 5.15pm and your key person will be in touch before half term to confirm appointment times. We realise you may not be able to make the appointment time given to you and if this is the case, please do get in touch with us via email so that we can try to change it to a more suitable time for you. If you are away or know that you won't be able to make it that evening, please also let us know so that we can arrange to see you at another time and day that would be suitable.

Last day Friday 12th July

Invitation to church at 12.00pm

As we draw closer to the end of term and some of our children are getting ready to leave us for school, we would like to invite you all into the church for one last time to say goodbye. All children are invited in for the morning, even if your child doesn't usually attend on a Friday but we would ask that you please confirm by text or email that your child will be coming in that day so that we are able to ensure we have the correct number of staff to safely accommodate this.

We will be providing the children with a party snack and we will have some music and dancing during the morning.

If you have a child who is staying with us in September (our younger children), we ask that you collect them at 11.40am please. You are then welcome to join us in the church with your child if you would like to.

The older children (those who will be leaving us for school) will go through to the church with us at 12.00pm and will be performing a few songs for you all.

Once the service is finished, we will take the older children back through to playgroup to gather their things and will then invite families through to give out the children's learning journals as the children leave.

Arrival at Rascals

As our sessions have been filling up with more children over the last few months we have noticed that the cloakroom has become much busier in the mornings. There can be a large number of both adults and children entering the setting at the morning drop off and this can then be quite overwhelming for some of our children. We would appreciate if parents could please encourage their children to enter independently, particularly our school leavers, so that the cloakroom is clearer for them to be able to access their pegs. We will ensure an appropriate number of staff are on hand in the cloakroom to support this.

We have also seen an increase of cars pulling in to our small car park outside of the door to Rascals and we would politely ask that you instead use the main car park to the left of the church please. With children entering and exiting the setting it is particularly important that we keep this car park clear of moving vehicles for everyone's safety. We appreciate your cooperation with these points.

Labelling children's belongings

We would like to offer a polite reminder to our families to ensure that all of your children's belongings are clearly labelled. This is particularly important for drinks bottles, lunchboxes (and boxes inside), bags (clothes inside) and coats so that we can be sure we are always sending the children home with their correct items. Many thanks.

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). We also show the children how to recognise if their sleeves are inside out and how to pull them back through so they are the right way before they put their coat/cardigan on.

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.

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>

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.

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. This includes their hats, gloves, scarf, shoes, water bottles, lunchbox and bags.**

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 you all keep this in mind when you prepare your child's lunch. • Some parents like to send sweets into playgroup when it is their child's birthday, however, we are a nut free zone and have other 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 **DO NOT** send your child to playgroup if they are unwell at all including '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:

Half Term - Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Parent Consultations – Wednesday 5th June

Forest School (School Leavers only) – Wednesday 19th June

Stay and Play (new date)- Friday 28th June

Leavers Celebration–Friday 12th July (Last day) Younger children to be collected at 11.40am.

FIRST DAY AUTUMN TERM – Monday 2nd September