Playgroup News – Friday 20th November 2020

*Hello Everyone,*

*We have had another lovely week at playgroup with some very mixed weather! In the finer weather the children have enjoyed more ‘welly walks’ to the Nature Area and lots of play in our muddy garden, as well as practicing physical skills with building, balancing and ball control. On wetter and windier days the children still love to get outside and experience the different sensory experiences of this type of weather. In indoor play and learning, the children have really loved group play with our large, chunky toy vehicles and play people which include building site and emergency services role-play. In Penguins, some of the children extended this play by making ‘hospital beds’, and ‘garages’ for the vehicles. Lots of children have been experimenting with mark-making both indoors and outdoors using a range of resources and media, including paint, chalk, pens/pencils, ‘magic writers’, whiteboards and fingers in sensory materials!*

*The children in both rooms are really enjoying our ‘Story-Making’ texts and are enjoying recalling the story in exciting ways. In Squirrels, the story is ‘Where’s Spot?’ and the children have enjoyed ‘hide and seek’ type games with our lovely cuddly Spot toy, and guessing games. This story also helps the children to learn colours and prepositions (under, behind, inside etc). In Penguins the story is ‘The Three Billy Goats Gruff’. The children are loving this story, and this week were excited to act out the story using props, role-play and masks.*

***Please remember to check into Tapestry for lots of lovely observations and updates! We really value seeing your ‘likes’ and ‘comments’ on here.***

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| **Ideas for home** See the source imageLast week and this week we have been sending home slips from your child’s key person with information about their key interests and achievements this term, as well as some ways in which you can support their next steps in learning at home. We would love to see observations of these achievements on Tapestry, or perhaps just some comments to provide us with feedback? While we appreciate it is difficult for us to have time to talk and catch up with you at the beginning and end of sessions in these challenging times, please do not hesitate to email and request a telephone call from your child’s key person if you would like to discuss development.  |
| **Photographer**See the source imageA professional photographer is visiting us next Tuesday and Wednesday to take some Christmas themed photographs of the children. Thank-you to all of you who have returned permission slips – if you have not but would like your child to have their photograph taken we MUST receive a completed permission slip on Monday. Please note that all orders and payment will be done via the photographer’s website, not playgroup. Details of how to do this will be included with the proofs.  |
| **Christmas Fundraising**A letter was sent home last week and this week with information about the fundraising events we are running this term as follows:* *Christmas Raffle* – raffle tickets are £2 per sheet. **We now require raffle prizes of chocolate, toys and gifts (in new condition please)!**
* *Children’s Christmas crafts* – the children will be handcrafting some lovely cards, calendars and decorations. We ask for a small donation of £3 for you to purchase these crafts.
* *‘Reindeer Run’* – take part as a runner and/or support this event by purchasing a ‘bingo card’. For more information about how to take part visit our Facebook pages or contact playgroup.
* ***Special offer –* take part in all of the above activities for a reduced cost of £5.**

See the source imageAs a Charity playgroup, fundraising is vital to enable us to provide enriched activities for the children, and for buying new resources. Fundraising also helps us to provide parties and special events and to purchase Christmas and leaving presents for the children. Please support these fundraising activities if you can and many thanks to those of you who already have! |
| **Drop-off and collection**See the source imageJust a gentle reminder that it is really important that you are on time for drop-off and collection of your child – this is particularly important for the lunchtime changeover. We appreciate the staggered start/finish times at school are making this a bit difficult for some parents. At lunchtime the staff need to take their short break for lunch and the office staff and managers cover these – this is made very difficult if parents are late dropping off or collecting. Thank-you for your support with this matter. |
| **Facebook Page/Group**See the source imageDon’t forget to ‘like’ our Facebook page to see regular announcements and updates, and parents/carers and family members of children who attend playgroup, who are known to us, can also request to join our closed Facebook group where you can share ideas with other parents relevant to our playgroup. Find us at ‘Coalway Early Years Private Page’.  |
| **New Admissions**See the source imageDo you know anyone with a child ages 2 or 3 years old who may be looking for a playgroup place from January 2021 onwards? Please spread the word and encourage your friends and family to come and join us! They can find out lots of information about the playgroup by visiting our website at [www.coalwayearlyyears.co.uk](http://www.coalwayearlyyears.co.uk) and/or call or email us for an informal chat.  |

**Dates for the diary**

* 24th and 25th November - Photographer
* 1st – 21st December – ‘Reindeer Run’
* W/C 14th December – Christmas party celebrations (more details to follow!)
* Friday 18th December – Christmas Raffle to be drawn
* Friday 18th December – last day of Autumn Term
* Monday 4th January – INSET day (playgroup closed)
* Tuesday 5th January – first day of Spring Term
* **Friday 15th January – deadline date for school applications**