Playgroup News – Friday 27th November 2020

*Hello Everyone,*

*This week at playgroup the children were very excited to have the opportunity to have some beautiful Christmas-themed photographs taken by Lee the photographer and (most!) enjoyed their session very much – see below for more information. Because the outdoor area was out of bounds for two days due to the photographs, the children have had lots of opportunity to play on the school playground practising their physical skills and co-ordination. They have also gone for some walks on the field, and this morning the Penguins children loved exploring the beautiful frost (photos coming soon on Tapestry!). Indoors, the children have been beginning to make their Christmas crafts with the support of the adults, and were very excited when we put up decorations and Christmas trees in both rooms. In whole group circle times we have talked about the changes we see in nature as the seasons move from Autumn to Winter, and about Christmas! In Story-Making in both rooms the children have been enjoying recalling their stories through the use of props.*

***Please remember to check into Tapestry for lots of lovely observations and updates! We really value seeing your ‘likes’ and ‘comments’ on here, and we would love to see some observations from home!***

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| **Ideas for home**  This week in both rooms the staff have been talking with the children about the importance of taking care of each other and the lovely toys and resources that we have to play with at playgroup. This has been prompted by some of our resources sadly being broken through play that has been a little careless. Please support us with this at home by encouraging children to look after their toys and the things around your homes. It can be a good idea to put together a ‘treasure basket’ of small, delicate items (Christmas decorations, little ornaments, special toys etc) that you look at with your child and talk to them about how important it is to be careful and to share. |
| **Photographer**  See the source imageAs mentioned above, Lee Jenkins the photographer visited us on Tuesday and Wednesday and took some amazing Christmas photos of the children! He expects ordering information to be ready next week and we will be giving this out to you when we have it so that you can order your photos in time for Christmas! Please note that all ordering and payment will be done through the photographer’s website and not via playgroup, although we will take delivery of your orders and hand them out when they are ready. |
| **Christmas Fundraising**  See the source image**Please return all raffle tickets and payments for our fundraising events no later than Monday 14th December. We have decided to draw the raffle and prize draw for the cuddly reindeer on that date so that prizes can be given out before Christmas. Our fundraising events and costs are as follows:**   * *Christmas Raffle* – raffle tickets are £2 per sheet. This gives you five tickets for the raffle. More can be purchased if required. * *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 just £1. Purchase of the bingo card gives you automatic entry to the prize draw to win a giant, cuddly reindeer! * ***Special offer –* take part in all of the above activities for a reduced cost of £5.** |
| **Christmas ‘Party Week’**  Due to the COVID restrictions this year we will be unable to hold our normal Christmas parties, however to ensure that none of the children miss out, during the last week of term we will be having a ‘party week’! This means we will have Christmas party themed activities all week to include ‘party food’ at snack-time, games, songs and letters from Santa (who cannot visit this year due to COVID!!) with clues to help us find the sacks of presents he has left! At the end of some of the sessions that week we will invite you to come back slightly earlier to join us for some Christmas songs in the garden. We have attached our song sheet to help you practice with your children at home!  See the source image |
| **Winter Woolies**  See the source imageIt is nearly December and the Winter weather seems to be upon us. Please can you ensure that your child comes to playgroup in plenty of layers (the rooms do get warm and children may need to peel off some layers indoors!), a warm and waterproof coat, warm hat and gloves. We have noticed that lots of children are coming to playgroup in wellies. While this is great for walking to playgroup in the wetter weather, wellies do make children’s feet very cold and are not ideal for foot development, as such please send a change of shoes in a bag so they can change while they are here. Shoes however still need to be suitable for outdoor play and waterproof as we only change the children into wellies for play in the mud garden and walks up the field! |
| **New Admissions**  See the source image  Do 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**

* 1st – 21st December – ‘Reindeer Run’
* W/C 14th December – Christmas party week
* **Monday 14th December (date change)** – 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**