**Playgroup News – Friday 5th June 2020**

Hello everyone,

We hope that you are all well and that you had a good half-term week in the beautiful weather! Please note that our ‘Playgroup News’ will now be coming out each Friday.

**News**

*Wider Opening of Playgroup from June 8th*

As you will know from letters sent out recently in line with Government guidance we will be opening up our playgroup to more children from next Monday. Thank-you so much to everyone for responding to the letters and emails that have been sent out. I know that this has been a difficult thing for lots of people to consider. We now have all our confirmed places for the wider opening and based on the numbers we can safely admit, we are now full. We are looking forward to welcoming all of those children and their families back next week. Lots of work has gone into preparing the building, resources and staff for this wider opening but we feel ready and confident in providing the safest and best environment we can under the circumstances. If your child is returning next week, please visit their Tapestry journal where we have added some information and pictures for you to share with them to help them feel prepared. Please note all of the information in the letters sent out to you last week regarding what we need you to do to help us implement the protective measures. Some key points to note are:

* Staggered arrival/departure times – Squirrels Room will operate between 9am and 3pm, and Penguins Room between 9.15am and 2.45pm (please note from your email offer the room your child has been allocated as this may not be the room they previously attended)
* On arrival please do not enter the playgroup garden until we invite you to do so – please queue at the white markers and respect social distancing
* Please send children in clean clothes each day – play clothes please as we are NOT currently using aprons!
* Please send your child with a coat, sun-hat, named bottle of sun-cream, named change bag (to be left at playgroup), lunch box and named water bottle. Please no toys, book bags or comforters. Lunch boxes and water bottles must be taken home and cleaned after each session
* Please keep any discussions with staff at arrival/collection brief. If you need a longer conversation we will arrange to ring you
* Please remember adults are NOT allowed into the building and prepare your child for this in advance.

*Home-Schooling*

For those of you whose children are remaining at home, we will be continuing to support you by adding ideas and activities to Tapestry. This is being picked up by Vikki and Lucy who will be adding some learning ideas each week and will also look forward to seeing the posts that you add to your child’s journal. Please visit Tapestry this week to join Vikki and Harley for a sing and dance along to ‘Elephants have Wrinkles’ and a lovely idea for home-made jigsaws.

*Key Persons*

Because of the changes to our practice in the coming weeks, for those children attending playgroup the room staff assigned to each ‘bubble’ of children will become their key persons who will be happy to support you with their learning and will be adding some observations to Tapestry. The adults are allocated to the days/rooms are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Penguins Room** | | | | |
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| Vicky Meek  Pauline Williams | Rachel Hale  Jo Watkins | Room closed for planning | Vicky Meek  Pauline Williams | Rachel Hale  Jo Watkins |
| **Squirrels Room** | | | | |
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| Rachael Alexander  Amanda Straw | Louise Edwards  Vicky Malsom | Louise Edwards  Vicky Malsom | Louise Edwards  Vicky Malsom | Rachael Alexander  Amanda Straw |

*Assessments and Reports*

As part of our annual commitment to supporting you and your child with their transition to school, we produce a summative assessment and report to share with their new teachers towards the end of the Summer term. Obviously this year has made this a little more challenging but we will still be producing these reports over the coming weeks. We will use the information we have gathered over the previous year, the information you have shared on Tapestry and (in the case of those children returning to playgroup) our current observations. If your child is not returning to playgroup and you would like to share any information with us about achievements they have made with you during this term at home, please either add these to their Tapestry journal or send us an email. I am attaching the document I shared with you recently concerning what we look for in respect of ‘school readiness’ in each area of the curriculum to help you with this.

*Hours for September*

Thank-you to all of you who have sent requests for hours for September for children who are due to return to playgroup after the Summer break. I have sent an email reminder today to those of you still to do this. Obviously, the current situation in respect of the COVID 19 pandemic is ever changing and we do not know at this stage whether we will be able to return to normal in September. We will keep you informed as we receive information in respect of this.

Take care and stay safe.