

News

We have been thrilled with the success of this week's activities: water transport has been so well received by the children and we have taken some lovely photos of them playing with the boats and the fish as well as experimenting with the pipettes. We bought these to help tiny hands with fine motor skills and they have proved extremely popular.

We have also had success with children settling in and we truly feel that the Playgroup magic has now worked on all of our new January children.

Following on from our AGM last week, the committee including Justine (parent rep/ambassador) gathered so that we could talk about some fundraising activities amongst other issues. Justine would like to host another social evening for parents on **Thursday 8th March** at the City Barge pub, which is located down by the river along Strand on the Green. Justine will be there from 7.30pm. Do try and come along and get to know the other parents and committee members in a relaxed atmosphere. Please let Justine know whether you will be able to attend.

As you know, we are a not-for-profit organisation and we do rely on different fundraising activities to support us with providing equipment for the children. Justine has suggested that we run a Quiz night in the coming months so look out for more details in future newsletters.

Staff news. We are very lucky to have great staff retention at the Playgroup. However, after 14 years with us, Corinne has decided that it is time to move on into other areas of childcare and we wish her all the best. Her last day will be Friday 9th February.

We have had many lovely trips to the **Chiswick House Kitchen Garden** which is staffed by volunteers. We were dismayed to find out recently that they are now going to make a charge of £5 per child to attend this learning activity. Please could you let us know by return of email whether you would be prepared to pay for this visit, so that we can make plans for trips accordingly.

We wish you all a very happy week

Jane, Corinne, Bev, Sonia & Susan

Updates

Requests. Thank-you for all your donations of daily fruit, however we now need donations of some dry foods for the children. This could be healthy snacks such rice cakes, bread sticks or savoury biscuits. We also still need donations of tissues and wet wipes. Please make sure there are adequate changes of clothes in your child's bag. They always play with water and some children resist wearing the waterproof aprons so we do a lot of changing in a morning! Please make sure children's bags are labelled on the outside.

Tapestry is the new online method we are using for recording our observations of the children. We take photos and make observations of their play whilst they are learning, which then informs our planning and allows to gauge progress on a regular basis. One of the advantages of this method is that parents are able to access the information about their child at home. We will be sending out a link for our new January parents so that you can sign up for access.



Washing the patterned fish

Playing with the boats



The week ahead

This week we will be looking at types of road transport. We know this will be very popular with the children as they can explore and investigate all kinds of vehicles and the different terrains we will provide for them .

Some of our activities :

Monday

- Art activity: Tractor printing
- Small world: Cars and the garage
- Construction: Wooden block for roads

Tuesday

- Art activity: Transport sponge prints
- Transport puzzle selection
- Small world: The circus train

Wednesday

- Art activity: Circle prings
- Nursery rhyme selection
- Musical development: "The wheels on the bus"

Thursday (Extended session)

- Art activity: Making a train with shapes
- Making play dough activity
- Threading skills

Friday

- Cooking activity
- Art activity: Painting with large brushes
- Small world: House and people

Dates for your diary:

Half-term 12-16th February *Holiday club Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th*
Thursday 8th March: Drinks at the City Barge, 7.30pm-
Thursday 29th March: end of Spring term.