



JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP

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NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN

TERM 1

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to all our new children and their families who have started with us in September and onwards. All the children have settled, well done everyone for adapting to the routine of children entering playgroup independently, washing hands, finding their pegs before going to play. All great achievements for a 2-year-old!

Please name all clothing and lunch boxes, bags, with biro is fine! Not surprisingly very few recognize their own things yet and many children have similar items! We do try and return everything at the end of the day but please be patient, this is a time when other children can be unsettled as parents pick up. The safety of your children is more important.

PARKING

Can I remind parents to please be considerate of parents and children on pavements, our neighbours' driveways, garden areas when parking and waiting outside.



Please note:

DATES:

Last day of term is Thursday 17th October` 24, we are closed to children on Friday for staff development.

We return on Tuesday 5th November` 24.

Admission to Primary School September 2025

Was your child born between 1 September 2020 and 31st August` 21 then now is the time to apply for a school place. Admission to Primary Schools is now open online at medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions.

FEES:

All fees must to be paid up to date and in full by end of each term, our policy is no more than 2 weeks in arrears, we will be enforcing our policy of no payment no session for the following term.

Invoices to be sent out to parents with the full cost of the term`s fees. Parents will receive follow up texts asking for payment if your account is more than 2 weeks in arrears.

Session fees are £16:50 per 3-hour session. Lunch Club is £3:50. Lunch club fees contributes towards the staffing wages to supervise children. Lunch is not provided. Lunches are provided from home and the club is for children attending extended care only.

Just a reminder to parents/carers please be prompt picking up, consistent lateness may incur a fee.

Breakfast Club: 8:00am to 8:30am drop-in service £3:50 no booking needed.

AM Session: 8:30am to 11:30am

Lunch Club: 11:30am to 12:00 noon

PM Session: 12:00 noon to 3:00pm

PARENTS OPEN MORNING - MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER`24 - NO CHILDCARE

This is an opportunity for parents to meet with their child`s keyperson to discuss their children`s progress. Information will follow.

However, if any parents/carers have any immediate worries about their child settling or wish to discuss their child`s progress with their key person please do not hesitate to telephone or email for an appointment.

LEARNING AND PLAY OPPORTUNITIES - HAVING FUN!

I know it may seem initially very chaotic and loud with lots and lots of very young children that are learning to trust. They are being left with complete strangers (us) after a long period at home which has been quite bewildering for some! This first term your child`s key person will concentrate on getting to know your child, what they like playing and watching how they play, we do this through providing lots of creative, physical, and challenging activities but also importantly, talking and listening to your child. Simple boundaries and routines will be learnt alongside being more independent and practicing those social and communication skills that are needed to play with their peers in a group setting.

We provide fun activities looking at living a healthy lifestyle and the *Goose* books by Laura Wall. We are celebrating the change of seasons, traditions, and festivals such as Harvest Festival, Halloween, Guy Fawkes, Diwali as we progress through the terms.



LITTLE URCHINS - PHOTOGRAPHY - WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER`24 AM & PM SESSION

Your children`s photo`s will be taken during session by a Little Urchins Photographer. If it is not your child`s usual session, they can still have their photos taken. On the day, pop down we will collect the child from you at the gate, take photo and return to you. All photo orders and payments will be online this year and handled by Little Urchins; information will go to parents.

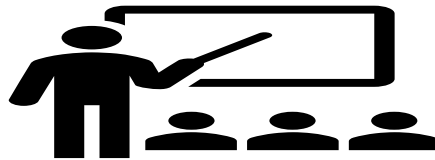


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BBC CHILDREN IN NEED FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER`24

PUDSEY BEAR WEEK - 11th - 15TH NOVEMBER`24

Children all over the UK have all sorts of stress and hardship to deal with, we would like to support this charity and will be holding Pudsey Bear activities and fund events throughout the week to raise funds for this appeal. Children can wear Pudsey Bear themed costumes, Superhero or Disney themed dress; donations will be collected on the gate during the week.



AGM - Annual General Meeting 2024 -

MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER`24 at 8:30am

Parents Needed

Each year we hold an AGM at the setting, the meeting lasts no more than half an hour, with parents in attendance to discuss the past years events and to ensure that parents have an opportunity to understand how we meet the legal and statutory requirements of our playgroup constitution. Part of this process would be to agree that the previous year`s minutes reflect practice, ensure the summary of accounts has been audited and are accepted as a true financial account alongside the voting in and out of committee officer positions.

I will send out an agenda with a slip to complete, please indicate a date you may be free to attend. Thank you.

We really do need our parents to get behind our playgroup and support us we are a charitable playgroup, which should be governed by parents, without parents meeting and voting on business and policy issues and without governance then we are putting the playgroup in danger of closing!

Please also confirm if you are interested in being a committee officer and when it is convenient for you to attend a meeting morning, afternoon, after playgroup closed? I will then contact you to discuss how you can help.

Once the meeting has been held, I will then file the accounts with the Charity's Commission for this year before the 31st of October`24. Thank you in advance for your support.



HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES

We would like to continue with Jack and Jill's commitment to ensuring we are offering your children healthier food choices within our setting and informing and supporting parents in making healthier lunch box choices.

Many of you will have received a leaflet in your registration packs that explain what is meant by `healthier lunch boxes`, making small changes even to the sizing of portions, less sweet more savour items make a difference.

No sweets, no chocolate spread, no nuts including peanut butter and no drinks please. We do have children who attend with severe allergies.

Kindly name your child`s lunchbox on the outside, really helps when there are several of the same boxes.

Cook with Teds and Recipe Book - visiting all homes soon!

We are introducing our cooking bears Jack and Jill to each family so that we can encourage children to cook and share recipes with us from home. Bears should go out on a Friday and returned by the following Friday for the next home visit.

The children have been baking and preparing vegetables, fruit kebabs at playgroup to share during session.



HEALTH INFORMATION

We are only allowing children and staff that are healthy and symptom free of temperature, heavy coughs, colds, or viruses to attend playgroup. This is a precaution against spreading to other children and staff. Please call in if your child is sick so we can record absences. please keep home from first symptoms and return child only when they are without temperature and well enough to play.

If a child is hurt during the session scrapes, bruises, bumped head we will follow our normal procedures of recording an accident, injury, and incident we will notify you by text or telephone. Any child coming into session with an unexplained mark or injury, parents will be contacted for an explanation. Please remain contactable during your child`s session.

Head Lice and Ringworm. These are common childhood ailments but are contagious so please treat immediately with the recommended products or

processes and your child can return to playgroup once treated. If you also let us know confidentially if your child has these, as it allows us to keep updated about what is currently affecting our children. Please ask if you need further information on these, we have leaflets.



CHANGING BAGS



CLOTHING FOR EVERYONE

Please provide a change of clothes in a named bag which can be kept on your child's peg that includes a complete change of clothing, footwear, cheap plimsolls/slippers are fine including socks and underwear, nappies and wipes if used. We have a physical, messy, and sometimes wet in/outdoor environment which the children have free excess to all year round and sometimes they need changing for various reasons. We do not keep spare clothing.

This may be inconvenient, but we will now be contacting parents if we do not have suitable clothing to change your child.

DONATIONS STILL WELCOME

Any donation of old pots/pans, kitchen utensils we can use for the outside play kitchen and sandpits. Outside ride in/on toys, balance bikes, complete puzzles/play trays for 2-3-year-olds.

facebook

Our playgroup Parent Facebook Page is Jack and Jill Playgroup, Strood. It is a private page for parents only. Please look us up and add yourself. I will



publish regular pictures of your children and updates. I hope you have enjoyed looking at what your child gets up to!

WEBSITE

Lots of information is published on our website address: www.thejackandjillplaygroup.co.uk. Such as current newsletters and events, term dates and photos of your children at play. Parents are also able to contact us on a quick contact form.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, WE CONTINUED TO DO OUR VERY BEST TO ENSURE THIS IS SAFE AND HAPPY PLACE FOR YOUR CHILDREN TO LEARN AND PLAY

DELIA/SALLY