

# JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP



Published on: [www.thejackandjillplaygroup.co.uk](http://www.thejackandjillplaygroup.co.uk)

E-mail: [jackandjillplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jackandjillplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk)

Facebook: *Jack and Jill Playgroup Strood*

Tel: 07845979519 or 01634 717585

## NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 1

Dear Parent/Carers

A warm welcome to all our new children and families who started in the new term. All the children have settled, well done everyone to adapting to the routines of children entering playgroup independently, finding their name cards, washing hands, finding pegs before going to play. All great achievements for 2- and 3-year-olds!

Please name all clothing and lunch boxes, bag, biro is fine! Not surprisingly very few recognise their own things yet and many have similar items. We try and return everything at the end of sessions but please be patient this can be a time when other children become unsettled as parents pick up.

If parents have any concerns or questions, please telephone into playgroup and we will be happy to speak at any point of the day.

Can we ask that parents do not have long discussions on the gate with Keyperson. Thank you.



## PARKING

Can I remind parents to please be considerate of parents and children walking and waiting on pavements, do not park outside our playgroup gates, our neighbours' driveways, garden areas when waiting.

Please note:

## DATES:

Last day of term is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October`25, we are closed to childcare on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October for staff development.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November`25. Parents Open Morning. We are closed to childcare.

We return on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November`25 for childcare.

## Admission to Primary School September 2026

Was you child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 then now is the time to apply for a school place. Admissions to Primary Schools is now open online at [medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions](https://medway.gov.uk/onlineadmissions).



TESCO`S BLUE TOKENS - WE WERE AWARDED THE £1500 - THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAMILIES FOR POSTING BLUE TOKENS AT OUR FUNDRAISING BOXES IN THE LOCAL TESCO STORES. THE FUNDS



WILL GO TOWARDS IMPROVING OUR OUTSIDE PLAY AREAS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS. ANY CARPENTERS OR HANDYPERSON PARENTS/GRANDPARENT HELP WOULD BE APPRECIATED IN HELPING WITH CONSTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT. PLEASE SPEAK TO DELIA OR SALLY IF COULD HELP.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**GET INVOLVED!**

AGM - Annual General Meeting 2025

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October`25 at 8:30am

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN!

Just a little reminder that we are a committee run playgroup and welcome all parents to join in and contribute towards the running and decision making of your child`s provision. If you are interested and could give a little of your time. Lisa Butcher, Candis Wiles our existing officer will be here to chat with you and see how you can help!

Meeting lasts no more than half an hour with parents in attendance to discuss the past years events and to ensure 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 committee officer positions.

happy diwali



### LEARNING AND PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

Personal, Social and Emotional skills of all the children - we still have lots of little ones now at playgroup and along with the older children we will be concentrating on developing independence, carrying out simple instructions, sharing and turn taking, listening, and speaking activities, building confidence, being kind and helping others alongside the other areas of learning.

We are experiencing the change of season to Autumn with little walks to the local park and using our park to collect leaves and conkers, lots of sensory play using different materials and media. We will be celebrating traditions and festivals such as Harvest Festival, Diwali, Halloween and Guy Fawkes.

### FOOD DONATIONS – COLLECTING FOR A LOCAL GROUP -

As part of our gathering for Harvest Festival we would like to gift food items to a local group in need. If you have anything that you think would be suitable, dry food items or tins in date for example soup, beans, gravy granules, noodles, coffee, tea, dried milk cupboard essentials, we would be grateful for any donations. Please drop in.

PARENTS – now your child is at pre-school try now and lose those dummies, bottles of milk and encourage them to walk and not be carried, independence and self-regulation is an important skill that can be developed.


**PARENTS OPEN MORNING MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER`25**

**PLAYGROUP WILL BE CLOSED TO CHILDCARE ON THIS DAY.**

**This is an opportunity to meet with your keyperson and discuss how your child has settled and your child's progress more formally. Invite to follow.**

**Little Urchins - Photographer - Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November`25 - AM/PM**

**We have our Christmas themed photo`s. Children attending on the day will be photographed. If Tuesday is not your child`s usual session day, parents**

A decorative border of pumpkins with carved faces surrounds the entire page.

please just drop your child in during the morning, we will take your child in and to have their photo taken and returned to you while wait.

### MOBILE TELEPHONES

Can we ask that parents, carers do not use their mobile telephones in the setting at dropping off and collection times. We can then talk to you if needed about your child's day. Please finish your calls before collecting children. Thank you.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Please dress all children attending session according to the weather conditions, we are very outdoorsy and messy and please name everything clearly. Please ensure changing bags are stocked up with spare clothes we will send home to replenish as needed.

# 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. Advanced notice to parents who leave, I will at the end of term remove you from the group. I hope you have enjoyed looking at what your child gets up to!

## WhatsApp

We will now try when time allows for Keyperson's to send photos of your child through WhatsApp messaging as parents have said they appreciate these.





### Lunch Boxes

We have quite a few lunch boxes that are full of unhealthy snacks and treats. No sweets or chocolate spread, peanut butter please. We check all boxes and will remove items if there is too many for one lunchtime. No water bottles please, we have cups and beakers.

Please cut all grapes and sausages length wise please, this is the most up to date safety guideline on potential choking hazards with children.

Just to reassure parents children, we have breakfast of toast, cereals, fruit and an afternoon snack of crackers, cheese, yoghurt, and fruits with unsweetened drinks throughout the day. We adhere to all your child`s dietary requirements. Please ensure you update us if there are any changes. All children sit down together when eating and drinking and are fully supervised by practitioners.

As you know they occasionally have of treats throughout the week of ice-lollies, popcorn, biscuit making, and birthday cake so they really do not miss out! We have listed below a few hints for a healthier lunch box.

Please name lunch boxes on the outside, we will add initials if not named, we have many boxes the same!

### Snack and confectionery

Snack foods may be included occasionally but aim to make healthier choices. Snack foods tend to be high in fat, sugar, and salt. Foods high in fat/salt can

A decorative border of pumpkins with jack-o'-lantern faces surrounds the text.

cause excessive weight and may lead to heart disease. High sugar foods are high in calories and bad for teeth.

**For a healthier snack:**

Replace sweets and chocolate with dried fruit, a small bunch of grapes or fruit salad.

Replace cakes and pastries with fruit bread or malt loaf.

Replace salted savoury snacks with rice cakes or breadsticks.

Packed lunches should not contain chocolate, biscuits, sweets, salted savoury snacks, cereal bars, fizzy drinks, or juice drinks.

Please do not include peanut butter, nuts or chocolate spread filling for sandwiches.

**PLEASE PAY FEES ON TIME - FEE PAYMENT**

**Our sessions are 3 hours at a cost of £17.00 and lunch club £3:50.** Fees must be paid. We feel we have a flexible payment system; parents agree the session fees on registration; we invoice and send reminders via text.

**Parents can pay weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or half term but all fees must be paid and no more than 2 weeks in arrears.**

Fees **must be paid on time.** We will be enforcing our policy of **no payment no session** if fees are not kept up to date.

**Breakfast Club - is still available from 8:00am for a cost of £3:00 on the day drop off.**

***DONATIONS 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.*

## HEALTH INFORMATION



### **PLAYGROUP SICKNESS**

If your child is unwell, continuous runny nose or continuous cough, their immune system may be lowered and then they are at greater risk, so please do not bring them to playgroup. Children will need rest and good hydration at home until they are well again.

Please do not bring children who have had a temperature during the night and required paracetamol/Calpol or any other medication to lower temperature this will wear off very quickly and the children usually tell us!

Do not bring children who have had diarrhoea and or sickness for a clear 48 hours of the last attack.

Do not bring children that have or are recovering from the normal childhood ailments such as impetigo, conjunctivitis until they have been treated and are well enough to return.

Please remind your children to wash hands with soap regularly and supervise their hygiene routines more closely at home.

Please telephone, email, text and let us know if your child is not attending playgroup for any reason.

Ensure we have all your up-to-date emergency details, a password and someone remains contactable while your child is at playgroup.

We are expecting Khudija will be fit enough to return and join the team ready for the new term in November.

*Thank you for your continued support.*

*Delia/Sally*