

JACK AND JILL PLAYGROUP



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NEWSLETTER - TERM 5

Dear Parent/Carers

We would like to welcome the new families that have joined us this term. Many of the children will be our very youngest at 2 years old and will have lots of support to settle and so that playgroup is a positive fun experience. If parents have any concerns or questions, please telephone and we will be happy to speak at any point of the day.

GOODBYE AND WELCOME - STAFF

We are really sad to have Trudie leaving us on Friday to take up a part time position in another pre-school nearer her home which fits in with her young family. Trudie has tried to meet with all her key children's parents this week and will hand over the children's learning journals to the new practitioners as they start. Your child's new keyperson will introduce themselves in due course.

A warm welcome to the new members of staff Danielle Petty and Gemma Lowery, both L3 practitioners with many years of experience. We have employed another L3 practitioner, Lauren Jones who will be joining us at the beginning of May.

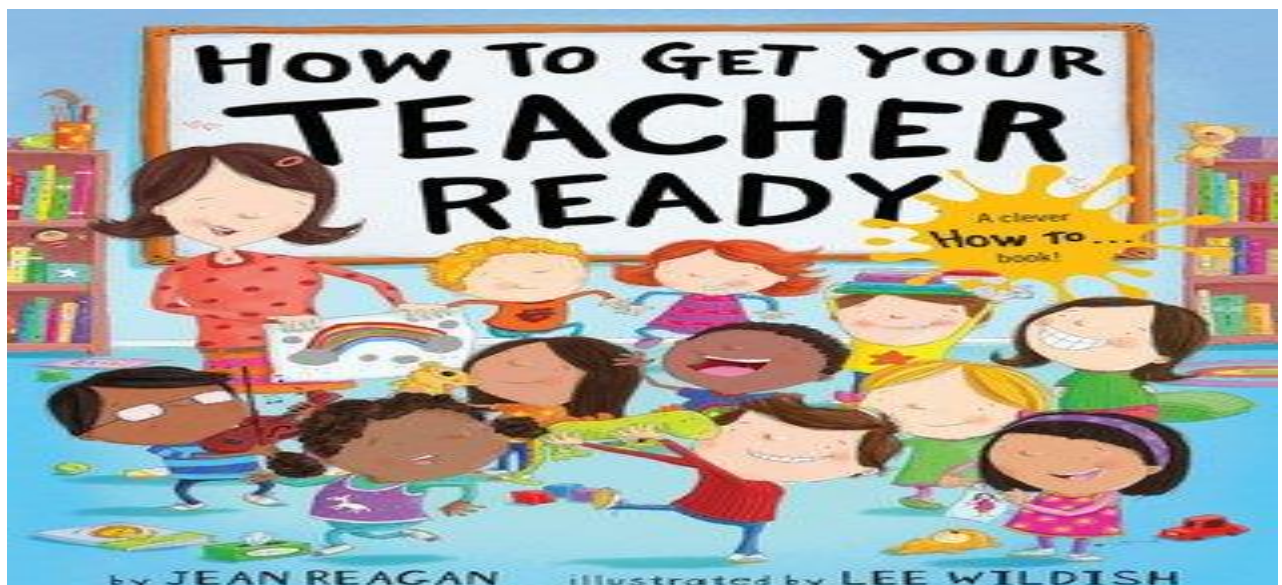
Khudija has recovered well now from her recent illness and has returned this term on a part time basis. Fingers crossed we will be working with a full team once again!

SCHOOL PLACES SEPTEMBER`24

Can parents please let us know what schools they have accepted for their leaving children in September`24. We have a list at the gate. Thank you.

Parents will be invited by the schools to visit and meet their new teachers, teachers will be visiting our nursery as part of the transition process for the children, please let us know your visit dates.

For those going to Gordon Schools Uniform sale 20/3,24/4,22/5,19/6, 3/7, 10/7 visit the music room near the Minerva Road Gate entrance.



THESE NEXT 2 TERMS ARE TERM IS IMPORTANT – PARENTS CAN HELP

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.

Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves at bedtime and before playgroup, remind them about washing hands after using the toilet (they will do this

totally independently at school), ask them to do little jobs for you involving simple instructions, spend a little time on tasks that require short periods of concentration and talk to them about big school positively, what they can expect, making new friends and what fun it can be. Try now and lose those dummies, bottles of milk and encourage them to walk and not be carried, independence and self-soothing is an important skill.

DATES FOR DIARIES:

PARENTS OPEN MORNING MONDAY 3RD JUNE`24

PLAYGROUP WILL BE CLOSED TO CHILDCARE ON THIS DAY.

Parent invites will go out to parents later this term. This is an opportunity to read your child`s transition form for school for those that are leaving and for those younger ones to meet with Keyperson and discuss your child`s progress more formally.

Little Urchins - Photographer - Wednesday 12th June`24 - AM/PM

Graduation photo`s for `Big School` Leavers and all children. Children attending on the day will be photographed. If Wednesday is not your child`s usual session day, parents please just drop your child in during the morning at the gate, we will take child in and photo and returned to you while you wait.

PROVISIONAL DATE FOR `SCHOOL LEAVERS PARTY`

Wednesday 17th July`24

Just a note to give as much notice as possible. I have not booked the `Leavers Party` at `Monkey Bizz` yet for those going to school 2024 but if all parents can be be aware that we will potentially be closed to childcare on this date which is our last day of term before the summer break.



Sunday 16th June`24

To all those special people in our children`s lives, enjoy your day!

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

We have had some complaints recently from neighbours regarding parents sitting on walls, allowing children to play, and run on drives in front of neighbouring houses. Parking outside playgroup gates, is dangerous and we have asked Medway Council to police this more closely. Please be considerate and careful where you drop off and collect. Our neighbours are good, we rarely have moans, and we are a noisy lot! Thank you for your support.

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.

Our mobile phone policy within our setting, which is followed by all staff, visitors, and students to include parents on the premises. Personal phones are not used within the setting and are stored away to safeguard children in our care from unauthorised, pictures, recordings. Please finish your calls before collecting children. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE:

Please dress all children attending session according to the weather conditions and please name everything clearly including bags and lunch boxes. Please ensure changing bags are stocked up with spare clothes.

Playgroup will supply and apply a good quality sunscreen to all children when we use the park or trips during sunny weather. Please let us know if your child can

not have sunscreen applied and make sure an alternative is supplied from home. Please also make sure that all children have hats and if sensitive to sun or the cream applied that they are sent in with a light covering for their arms (long sleeve t-shirt) as they will still be included in all play and trips outside this summer.

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 of our `Leavers`, 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!

CLOTHING

Please make sure your child is suitably dressed (old clothes) for indoor and outdoor activities with plenty of layers. Reminder please, it is essential that all children must have a bag with a full set of clothes to change. We do not have any spares now, please return borrowed clothing. Children without a change of clothes, parents will be called to bring clothes to the setting. Please name coats, jackets and even shoes just with a biro mark so much easier when chasing down missing items!



Lunch Boxes

We have quite a few lunch boxes that are full of unhealthy snacks and treats. We check all boxes and will remove items if there is too many for one lunchtime.

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.

As you know they also 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 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 or chocolate spread filling for sandwiches.

PLEASE PAY FEES ON TIME - FEE PAYMENT

Our sessions are 3 hours at a cost of £16;00 and lunch club £3:00. 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 in advance.

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.

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

Thank you to parents for their continued support in delaying the spread of any infections to the children and practitioners.

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 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, and someone remains contactable while your child is at playgroup.

Thank you for your continued support.

Delia/Sally