Already we are two weeks into the Summer Term. We hope you had an enjoyable break.

You may have noticed we have two new adult faces with us. Suzy Robins and Jane Knight, both ladies have been part of the playgroup for many years as mums and also Suzy was once our Chairperson. They will be working with us and the children while they train to become Early Years Educators.

We are happy to say we have had quite a few new starters this month and they have settled in really well. We always try to try and learn as much as we can about our new starters before they arrive, so we know what interests them. If you haven’t received a welcome pack with a unique child booklet please ask.

What we’ve been doing?

Last term, we were looking at “what we want to be when we are older”, different occupations and people who help us.

Carrying on from the theme of growing up, we are now learning about growth and changes. What we need to grow and also creature, plant and vegetable growth. We are looking at life cycles both creatures and plants. We have enjoyed reading, using props, story maps and acting out stories, eg: Jack and the Beanstalk and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We will use these stories and themes to incorporate all areas of their learning. The children are growing their own sunflowers, noticing the changes, naming the plant parts and measuring them. We have also ordered some butterfly eggs and will be observing the butterfly metamorphosis carefully in the setting.

Remember at the beginning of the year, we talked about being accepted into the “Space Seed Project”, well our Rocket Seeds have arrived and will be planted next week, ready for our experiment to begin.

The children have started to plant in our garden, they have planted their favourite vegetables and we will be adding some lovely herbs. These can be used in our kitchen but also in the children’s mud kitchen.

We will be travelling around the world, looking at other cultures, tasting different foods, looking at their languages and clothes. If you would like to contribute and help us learn about different cultures and countries please let us know.

If you are going on holiday, please can you take photos, bring back souvenirs ,postcards, and describe the foods you have tried, so we can talk about it at “circletime “and maybe put it on our display board”.

Transition

This year we are very pleased to announce the majority of the playgroup children got their first choice school. Please remember to accept your placement. We are very lucky to have a good relationship with Hempsted Primary School and to be included in their “sports day” and “assemblies”. It’s this partnership between us that helps the children become familiar with both the school and teachers. In June, the children will have the opportunity to visit their classroom and meet their teachers. This is a very important part of the transition to school process. Your child’s school visit date will be on the notice board nearer the time.

PE Kits

Preschooler’s: Please can you supply your child with shorts and t-shirts that they can keep in their drawer. This is to practice getting dressed and undress by themselves, ready for when they go to school.

Graduation

It will be lovely to have our Leaver’s Graduation Day held back at playgroup this year, if you remember this time last year we didn’t have a building, so it was held at the village hall. It is a fantastic day for parents and children to celebrate leaving playgroup. Plans are already underway, and we will be sending out more information nearer the time.

Fund Raising

Fundraising is a major part of Playgroup, as a Charity we rely so much on the generosity of our parents, families and friends, and also local businesses. Thank you to everybody who contributed toward the Easter Fayre, buying raffle tickets, entering the Easter Bonnet Parade and supplying prizes. We raised more than £351.00.

We will be using some of this money to enrich our story theme corner, resource our garden and buy supplies for the Leaver’s Graduation Party and refreshing some old toys.

If you have any ideas on more fund raising events please do tell the committee…

Committee and Friends

As you may hear us mention on many occasions we are a Charity and we are run by a Committee of volunteering parents. Without them, there would be no playgroup. If you would like to help in any way big or small please do speak to them, Jane Moss is our chairperson, Becki Clayton is our Treasurer, Kiri Hopson is our Secretary.

If anyone is interested in helping us with some handyman jobs, it would be much appreciated.

Jobs to do out of the goodness of your heart:

Paint the fence, pressure wash the outdoor floor, clean the outdoor equipment

Weather

As you know our weather is very unpredictable. If it is expected to be hot and sunny, please can you put sun cream on your child in the morning and put a sun hat and named cream in their bag for when they are at playgroup. If you do have a spare hat they can name and keep in their drawer that would really help.

Please can you put your child’s name on everything.

Items needed:

Sainsbury Vouchers

Thanks once again Naylor Powell for a lovely donation cheque.

Remember for every home that sells or is rent through Naylor Powell in Hempsted, They generously donate some of their fees.

Fantastic Support from our local business.

Please look at our parent’s board outside for important notices regarding everyday policies

Dates for your calendar!

Playgroup finishes 3.00pm Thursday 26th May

Playgroup Starts 9.00am Monday 6th June

AGM (please come) ??

\*\*\*\* Leavers Graduation Party Thursday 21stth July \*\*\*\*\*\*\* Details of this will follow shortly

Playgroup finishes 3.00pm Wednesday 20th July 2016 – Summer Holidays

Playgroup Starts 9.00am to be announced

A polite reminder from the School, please do not park your car on the school drive.

[](http://www.naylorpowell.com/) Supporter of Hempsted Playgroup and Toddlers