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

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 and we will email it to you.

What we’ve been doing?

Following on from last term we will be continuing to improve our construction area and growing area.

The children have been using all their senses looking, listening, smelling, feeling and tasting different fruits and vegetables. We have sowed our vegetables from seed, and they are growing very well inside, in fact almost ready to plant in the garden, the potatoes and carrots are already in. The children have been watching and learning what plants need to grow and survive.

We are now learning about growth and changes. What we need to grow and also creatures, 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. We have also ordered some butterfly eggs and will be observing the butterfly metamorphosis carefully in the setting.

We will continue to travel 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, we will begin spending time over at the school giving the children the opportunity to visit their classroom and meet their teachers. This is a very important part of the transition to school process.

Your child will also have independent school visit dates, these 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. (these can be any shorts/tshirt, not school ones) This is to practice getting dressed and undress by themselves, ready for when they go to school.

Graduation

Leaver’s Graduation Day is being held at playgroup on Thursday 20th July this year. It is a fantastic day for parents and children to celebrate leaving playgroup. Plans are already underway, leavers group photos and individual child photos, in a cap and gown will be on sale also. We will be sending out more information nearer the time.

September 2017 Sessions

In line with increased Government Funded hours (information on eligibility is available online or we have a leaflet you can read), we will be introducing a full day on Fridays, this will be available for all ages.

Unfortunately to cover our extended overheads we will also be increasing our session rate to £10 for a 3hour session, £20 for a 6 hour session.

Days available are.

Monday 9-3pm Preschool only

Tuesday 9-12pm All ages Tuesday 1-3pm Stay and Play

Wednesday 9-3pm All ages

Thursday 9-3pm Preschool only

Friday 9-3pm All ages

We have decided to keep Tuesday afternoons for the “Stay and Play Toddler Group”. We feel this is a valuable time for the toddlers and their families, helping them with their transition into playgroup.

We have slips available for you to apply for your September sessions, these will be confirmed by email.

Fund Raising Committee and Friends

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 £350.00.

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.

The Committee and friends have been working tirelessly organising some fabulous events, such as the pamper evening, outdoor cinema, Easter movie at the Gordon League, smarties challenge, running marathons, trawling the internet looking for grants and approaching companies to donate items and sponsorship.

If you have any ideas on more fundraising events please do tell the committee, or come along to our committee meetings.

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.

Jobs to do out of the goodness of your heart:

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

If you would like to see your child in action, playing with their friends, please feel free to arrange a date with us, you could help read a story, bake some cakes, paint, plant some flowers , or just play 😊

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.

Child Safety

Please can you write on the attendance sheet your child is being picked up by someone other than yourself, or if it is a sudden change, please can you ring us so we are aware of who is collection. We will not release your child into the hands of another person unless we are sure you have authorised this.

Items needed:

Sainsbury Vouchers

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

Dates for your calendar!

Playgroup finishes 3.00pm Thursday 25th May

Playgroup Starts 9.00am Monday 5th June

Committee Meeting /AGM (please come) Date to be arranged

Hempsted Primary School Summer Fete Saturday 8th July 12-3pm

\*\*\*\* Leavers Graduation Party Thursday 20th July - END OF TERM

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