

# Croft Playgroup Newsletter

November & December 2024



Thinking about

**“How we want the world to be”**

focusing on:

Learning to share

Understanding right and wrong

Beginning to understand that actions have consequences

Learning about how to keep ourselves safe

## **Contact details**

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**Find us on Facebook too:** Croft Playgroup, Swindon

## Dates for the term ahead:

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Term starts Halloween fancy dress</b>	<b>All week</b> for those who wish to take part.
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Show and Tell</b>	Children in on that day can bring something to show us or tell us about something special instead.
Every Thursday	<b>Zumba continues</b>	<b>9.15am to 10.15am</b> Sessions for both rooms will continue.
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Dinky Ponies</b>	<b>Approx. 10am</b> Sarah and her dinky ponies will be visiting the children at playgroup. The children can pet and brush the ponies in small groups.
	<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>6pm</b> at playgroup <b>All parents and carers welcome to attend.</b>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>A visit from Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue</b>	<b>10:30am</b> Rachel and her team will come to playgroup to talk to the children and show them their fire engine and equipment.
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	<b>A visit from Heidi Alexander (MP)</b>	We look forward to welcoming Heidi to the setting to see what we do and to share ideas about key issues relating to Early Years education. <i>If you have any thoughts let us know.</i>
Week commencing Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Parent's Reading Week</b>	<b>11:45 and 2:45pm</b> Please email to let us know if you would like to come in to read a story at the above times on any day during the week.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>Bring a family member to preschool day</b> *for children usually in on this day*	<b>10am to 11am and 1:30pm to 2:30pm</b> Please email to let us know if you would like to come in to play.
Week commencing Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Parent's Information Week</b>	An opportunity to meet with your child's keyworker and review their play and learning. <i>More details to follow.</i>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>OAK ROOM visit to Old Town Library</b>	<b>9:30-10:30am</b> leaving playgroup as near to 9 as possible. <b>PARENT HELPERS PLEASE!</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>WILLOW ROOM visit to Old Town Library</b>	<b>9:30-10:30am</b> leaving playgroup as near to 9 as possible. <b>PARENT HELPERS PLEASE!</b>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	End of term fun and singalong	10-11:30am Willow Room
		1-2:30pm Oak Room
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Steve Anthony to visit to share his books</b>	<b>10am approx.</b> More details to follow. <i>There will be an option to pre-order his latest books which he will sign on the day.</i>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>**Last day of term**</b>	Playgroup closes at normal time.

**We are very proud of how our September starters have settled in.** Hopefully you will all have had an opportunity to reflect with your child's key worker about how they have settled. The children have done brilliantly in acclimatising to the people and environment at playgroup; they all settle at different rates and we know it can be hard not to worry if your child seems to be taking longer. We are all different and that is true of children too. Some are naturally more independent and enthusiastic about getting out into the world and interacting with peers, others are more introvert and may need to recharge more at home with family. We will continue to work with you to support the children and adjust our strategies to help them feel more comfortable. They will all get there with our collaborative and loving support.

**Home visits** have proved to be another useful way to support children in feeling happier in the setting and we will do our best to arrange more of those for anyone who we think may benefit. If we haven't approached you and you feel it would be a good thing for your child, do let us know.

**The values we are focusing on this term are:** learning to share, understanding right and wrong, beginning to understand that actions have consequences and learning about how to keep ourselves safe. These concepts are challenging for children and when we help them to manage sharing or relating to others, we always acknowledge, name and empathise with the feelings that are inevitably behind any conflict or angry behaviour.

Children's brains and bodies are working hard all the time, responding and adapting to cope with social interactions, the demands that others make on them, as well as learning to express themselves. Children are capable of quite astounding honesty and reflection when given time to express themselves. We encourage sharing, kindness and reflection on how they and others might feel, but we understand that it is tiring. It is also important to have realistic expectations and to give children time to mature. Rather than putting pressure on children to say things or act to our direction, staff model words to say and ways to relate so that the children learn by our example. We also continue to read stories and lead discussions which relate to these values during our circle time sessions.

The progress children make at playgroup can sometimes lead to a deterioration in behaviour at home. Their immature brain systems simply can't maintain the same degree of control all day and so regression at home (where they feel most comfortable) is common, though not much fun for parents! They may need more patience from you, more quiet time, more one to one time or simply time to snuggle up with you. If behaviour or development is something you'd like to talk more about then please let Michelle or Helen know. We have some lovely books which we find useful and which you are welcome to borrow should you wish, do let us know.

**Kiddizoom cameras** We will continue to send home our cameras with several children every week to use and return the following week. Please support your child to take photographs of home, family and any activities you may have done. We load these onto the digital frames in

each room, which the children love to look at. It is another lovely way of connecting playgroup and home. ***Many thanks also for the family photos that many of you have sent in for us to display in the rooms. Don't forget to send one in if you haven't already.***

**Water bottles and healthy drinks** Please ensure that all drinks bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name. It is also best if the children have water to drink. If your child struggles to drink plain water, watered down juice or weak squash might be an option though it is important to bear in mind that pure fruit juice contains natural sugars and acids, which can cause tooth decay. We've copied a link to the NHS guidelines here: [Drinks and cups for babies and young children - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

### ***Additional events this term...***

**Help us walk to the library!** We are delighted to be able to visit to Old Town library this term. Please check the date and time of your child's room's visit and let us know if you are able to help us. We always need lots of adult support so will be very glad of the extra pairs of hands.

**Words and languages of the term** will continue. Please look out for our updates on Class Dojo.

**Welly walks** We hope to continue our welly walks to explore Croft Woods throughout term. We will let you know when these take place. We tend to take smaller groups rather than whole rooms to allow us to ensure ratios are safe and so that we can focus, listen and talk to the children in greater depth.

***We plan to invite more people who work to keep us safe into the setting to talk to the children; so if you work in a relevant field (dentists, doctors, nurses, police, paramedics etc..) and you'd be happy to come in to speak to the children please let us know.***

**Our end of term celebration** Please join us to hear the children sing some festive songs, followed by a special visitor (*it's a surprise!*), and the opportunity to buy a cake and something festive. Please see the dates for the term ahead to see the times

### ***Reminders...***

**Please send children to play in clothes that you don't mind them getting messy in.** Whilst we always encourage the children to wear protective clothing and try to source resources that are washable; we cannot guarantee that any marks from their play will come out entirely. Please continue to ensure that we have spare clothes and nappies (if required) and a pair of wellies. As it gets colder, please send children in with warm clothes, gloves and hats for outdoor play.

***Please put their name in every item.***

We are a nut-free playgroup which means no nuts or nut based fillings in lunch boxes please.

**Please be careful in the car park and do not drive up to park opposite playgroup** unless you have additional requirements that we are aware of. Children and adults walk and scoot in the space between playgroup and the primary school and there shouldn't be vehicles driving between the buildings between 8 and 9am and 3 and 4pm. **Thank you for your support.**