



Firstly, can I apologise that this newsletter is so late getting to you! It has been a rather hectic start to this term and some pesky tonsillitis got in the way of my planned newsletter writing! We welcome Ottilie, Theo and Dahlia who have started this term and hope that they and their families feel happy to be with us here at Amberley. It's a busy few weeks ahead so please make a note of any dates and get ready for the glitter and sparkles to arrive!

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Mon 29th Nov - Fri 10th Dec Children's progress reviews and 2-year assessments**
These informal 10-minute discussions about how your child is doing at playgroup will take place over two weeks commencing Mon 29th Nov. The discussion is a chance to review their progress at Playgroup and share information, and there will be a chance to take records home to review in detail. There will be a sign-up sheet at Playgroup, but if you can't make any of the sessions listed, please just see us to make an alternative appointment.
- **Mon 13th Dec - Christmas party, visit from 'Dazzle' and Christmas lunch (oh, and a special visitor)**

This year our Christmas party will again include a visit from Sarah at 'Dazzle workshops' who many of you will know. She is planning a special Christmas extravaganza for the children.

Any children who do not usually attend on a Monday are welcome to come in on that day. We will finish the morning session at 1.00 pm after the children have had a cooked Christmas lunch and hopefully a visit from a man in a red suit with a sack full of presents! There will be an afternoon session that day from 1 pm until 3 pm as usual.

- **Wed 15th Dec - Christmas show dress rehearsal 11.15 am (Time to be confirmed)**
This is an important part of show preparations to help the children feel confident with an audience before the big event on Thursday 16th. We usually have Amberley School reception class watching, but it will be based on the Covid situation. **Any child who does not attend on a Wednesday is encouraged to come along (by 10.45) for the practice.** Chat to Andrea for more details as she is our musical genius.

- **Thursday 16th Dec - Christmas show 9.30 am start**

The highlight of the year is our Christmas show, so put the date in the diaries and tell the Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles and anyone else who appreciates some festive fun. Our show this year is 'The Forgetful Fairy' and preparations are already underway. We will start the show at 9.30 am, but children should arrive at the usual time of 9.00 am. This will also be our last day of term, ending 10.30/10.45 am. There is no afternoon session.

We will provide further information nearer the time, regarding parts and costumes. If you know now that your child will not be available that week, please let us know ASAP so that we don't give them the starring role.

Immediately following the show will be the Christmas Hamper Raffle and the Cafe - serving tea, coffee and delicious cakes. The Committee will be in touch for details on the Hamper and Cafe donations.

- **Wednesday 5th January - Term will start again**

- **Friday 7th January - Playgroup Committee AGM (9.20 am at the Amberley Inn)**

This is an important meeting to nominate and elect our committee for 2021-22, review our accounts and provide an overall update on the last years events at playgroup. Our committee do a fantastic job in helping us with all aspects of running playgroup and it's a great way to show support for them. The AGM is open to all parents and we really encourage as many as possible to attend. Coffee and cakes will be served!

READY FOR WINTER

- **Snowy Weather** In snowy weather the playgroup may have to close if members of staff are unable to get into work, or the roads around Amberley are unsafe. As Culver Hill is often not gritted this can cause real problems. As a general rule if Amberley School is closed due to bad weather the playgroup will also be closed. We will put any closure on our website and Facebook page as soon as it is confirmed in addition to sending out a What's app message. You can also check the Gloucestershire county council website which lists the school closures <https://closures.goucestershire.gov.uk>. If you try ringing playgroup please be aware that it will take us longer to get to work than normal, but we would try to be open by 10.00 if we are able to.

- **Winter Clothing** Please can your child always bring a warm winter coat and wear suitable footwear or bring some wellies. We try to go outside every session. Also remember to bring some shoes or slippers for the children to put on if they do come to Playgroup wearing wellies as it is not safe for them to just be wearing socks. You are welcome to leave a bag on their peg with spare shoes/slippers in so you do not have to bring them in every day but please remember to take them home at weekends.

HOUSEKEEPING: DON'T FORGET

- **Playgroup Sept 2022** It's never too early to think about the next academic year! Your recommendation really is the best marketing for us. If you know anyone who has children who will be 2 years 6 months during the academic year Sept 2022-July 2023 please encourage them to get in contact if they would be interested in a place. We start allocating the places in March so it soon comes around, especially if people want to visit before registering their interest.
- **The Doors** Please always remember to shut the main outside door when you leave playgroup in the morning, and especially if you come in/leave at any time outside of the main drop off time. The inner door should always be firmly shut behind you not propped open by the doormat, to prevent any potential escapees!
- **Drinks with Lunches** Please remember to include a drink with your child's packed lunch.
- **Artificial Christmas tree needed!** Our playgroup Christmas tree is nearing the end of its working life and will need to be retired at the end of this year! If anyone is planning to upgrade their Christmas tree and would like to donate one to us for next year, we would be most grateful.

As always, we are so grateful to everyone for their continued support and encouragement this year and I hope you all enjoy this special time at playgroup. Any questions about any aspect of playgroup life just ask!

With love from Cathy and the playgroup girls!