

# WHITESHILL PLAYGROUP NEWSLETTER

Spring term 2024

## *Hello from the team!*

Hello everyone! Would you believe we are now at the end of the spring term? Time seems to have flown by so far this year. Yet the daffodils are popping up, the trees are blossoming, and we are well and truly heading for spring.

Lots has been happening here at playgroup, so here are a few things we would like to share with you ...

## *Dates for your diary*

### **22nd March**

Last day of the spring term

### **9th April**

First day of the summer term

You can find a full list of term dates on the [playgroup website](#).

## *A look back at this term*



What a busy term we have had! Since half-term, each week has had a different theme, from weather to spring to Easter. We had an excellent week learning all about Wales and St David's Day. We made dragon blowers, coloured in the Welsh flag, ate Welsh cakes and even learnt a song in Welsh.

Our weather week involved learning all about the different types of weather, and we not only made our own kites but got a chance to fly them too.

Instead of just celebrating World Book Day, we spent the whole week celebrating books. All the children brought in their favourite books from home, we created a *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* obstacle course, and we enjoyed counting fruit into *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's* mouth.

To celebrate St Patrick's day, we made special rainbow wands with shamrocks on. And we have just been learning all about spring – making chicks out of yellow playdough and feathers, playing with 'frogspawn' slime and learning about frog's lifecycles. We even had our own florist shop roleplay with a discovery table of spring flowers.

What a term ... lots of surprises, lots of learning and, above all, lots of fun!



## Staff notices

This term we welcomed Anna as our new playleader. Anna is a fully-qualified primary school teacher who, after having a career break, was inspired to come back in a new direction and work in early years education. She has lots of ideas and is very excited to be part of the Whiteshill playgroup team.

We also welcomed Michelle to the team as a play assistant in January. Michelle is a former parent at the setting and is taking her first steps into childcare with this role. She is about to start training for her NVQ and we all wish her good luck for her studies.

We are very sorry to say that Charlene will be leaving us at the end of this term. She has been such an important part of the playgroup family for the last five years, forming a great leadership team with Kim and putting the setting on a strong footing for the years to come. We hope all parents will join the staff and committee in wishing her the very best for the future.

## Fundraising

The committee is busy planning some exciting events for the summer term, so keep your eyes peeled for further info! For now, we can reveal that another bubble run will be taking place, following the success of last year's event. The date has not yet been confirmed, but we'll be in touch to let you know further details soon.



## Funding

Following the extensive press coverage over the past few months, we have now received confirmation of the new 15-hour funding model for 2-year-olds from Gloucestershire County Council and can confirm that we will be accepting the new codes from the start of next term.

**New parents:** You will need to register on the government website to obtain your code before the beginning of next term.

**Current parents with funded hours:** Please remember to renew your codes before the start of next term to ensure funding is maintained.

Further information can be found on the [Childcare Choices](#) website.

## Committee

Whiteshill Playgroup is a charity and is supported by a volunteer-led committee. We are always looking for new members, so if you – or any friends or family members – would like to take part in the running of playgroup, we would love to hear from you.

We have an immediate vacancy for the role of secretary, and we are also recruiting for a new chairperson and a treasurer, as the current incumbents will be stepping down in the summer. If you'd like to find out about any of these roles, or discuss how else you could get involved (any level of contribution is warmly welcomed), please speak to a member of staff or a current committee member, or email [Sam](#).

### Committee members

Chairperson: Sam Watson

Treasurer: Laura Murray

Secretary: vacant

Fundraising: Graham Taylor, Claire Hui

Others: Leon Goodchild, Becky Swanwick