

January 2014



CASTLEROCK  
PLAYGROUP

NEWSLETTER

## Activities / Themes

After listening to the children's experiences of Christmas we feel fairytales would be an appropriate theme this month. Fairytales such as Goldilocks & The Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs and Cinderella.

The learning potential is;  
'Develop awareness of helpful / hurtful behaviour and to express their own ideas through role-play, painting and conversation. To continue developing role play ideas, imagination and playing together in pairs / small groups.'

This month the children are learning to mix colours on a paper palette and specifically :-

RED and WHITE = PINK  
YELLOW and RED = ORANGE  
RED and BLUE = PURPLE  
BLUE and YELLOW = GREEN

Interest Table - Fairytale Items



## School Closure

Playgroup will close for half term on Thursday 13th February at 11.30am and reopen as normal on Wednesday 19th February.

## Dates for your diary:

23rd January - Royal Ball

30th January - World of Owls Visit

3rd - 5th February - Parent Interviews (Funded Children)

14th - 19th February - School closed for half-term on 14th and reopens as normal Wednesday 19th February

## Owl Visit

Mike from World of Owls will be coming to visit with his owls on Thursday 30th January. Children who do not normally attend on this day are welcome to come along and join us at 10am.

## Welcome Back

A very big welcome back to all children and parents.

We hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year and that the break was enjoyed by everyone. Hopefully all the children are well settled back in and ready for another exciting term ahead.

If you have any concerns regarding your child, or want to talk anything over, please feel free to speak to your child's key worker or Fiona anytime.

The staff would also like to take this opportunity to thank the children and parents for all the lovely gifts and cards they received at Christmas. As always, your generosity was much appreciated.



## Royal Ball

On the 23rd January We will be holding a Royal Ball to tie in with our fairytale theme. Kids are welcome to come dressed to impress on the day!!

## Inspection

We have had a very positive social services inspection, the report is available in the playroom if you would like to see it.

## Christmas Recap

This is just a quick recap of all the fun and exciting activities that took place during the Christmas period. The children enjoyed their outing to post their letters to Santa at the Post Office, this trip was even more exciting due to the fact that Santa himself along with Postman Ramsey were there to collect the letters and ensure they were safely deposited. Thanks to all the helpers who ensured the children were all kept safe on this trip - it could not take place without people like yourselves.



The kids were again involved with the turning on of the Castlerock Christmas Tree Lights, when they walked in the lantern parade from the Peter Thompson Hall down to the tree for the festivities. Thanks to all the parents who allowed their children to take part in such a community event making it a great success!

The Christmas Concert went well with all the kids enjoying themselves. We hope the parents enjoyed it as much as the staff did! Thanks again to Santa for taking part and to all those who helped make this a success. The refreshments later on that morning seemed to go down a treat and thanks to all committee members who work hard to make events such as this work.

Our trip to Hezlett House was a great morning out, we got a tour of the house and then had time to enjoy some crafts and refreshments. Again thanks to those who helped on the day.

Finally the children had a bit of fun on the last day of term with a party, there were lots of yummy treats provided by staff, along with Christmas music and party games. Thankyou to everyone who made this a really great party!!

## Lending Library

Taking into account parent's views, we have decided that children can keep their library book for a full week i.e. Friday - Friday.

Pre-pre schoolers - If your child does not receive a library book, please speak to a member of staff at the end of the session. They can also have their book for 1 week.

## Fundraising Update

Thanks to all who attended the Christmas Concert and those who helped with the sale of the Christmas Cards. The concert was well attended and raised £121.50. Cards went reasonably well - to date we have raised £346 and we will be able to update you on the final total next month.

## Media Initiative for Children

Most of you are hopefully aware of our involvement in the Media Initiative For Children Project, started in 2010.

This project involves the characters Jim, Jenny, Tom, Kathleen, Bukola and Kim (more information can be found at <http://www.early-years.org/mifc/>)

All children will have the opportunity to take Tom or Jim home overnight. Whilst puppets are visiting your home we ask parents if they could write a short piece in the puppet's diary with information such as what they did, what they ate, where they slept, where they went or visited etc. or include photos so that we can share and discuss Tom and Jim's experiences.

Jenny will be introduced this month to help develop awareness of hurtful behaviour / helpful behaviour.

## Fee Payments

Can you please ensure that all fees are paid promptly on the 10th of each month as this assists the treasurer in completing the banking and reporting.

If you are experiencing difficulties in making payments then please do not hesitate to discuss the situation with Fiona. We assure you that all information will be dealt with confidentially.



Telephone Number 028 7084 8265

Available Monday - Thursday 8.30am - 1.30pm and Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm