

Nile Grove Playgroup at Greenbank

www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk 07505366580

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new academic year of playgroup and what a quick term it has been. Apologies for the late distribution of this newsletter. As you will all be aware, we have seen much change since the summer holidays however things are finally starting to settle down again.

Best wishes, Nile Grove team x

Firstly...

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge welcome to all the new parents and children who have joined playgroup this term. Hopefully most of your children will be settling into playgroup and you are all enjoying the experience.

We also welcome Vanessa Meikle, our new temporary manager, to the playgroup. Vanessa started with us on 22nd September and has settled into the team wonderfully. Vanessa has a wealth of experience with children and we are delighted she has joined the playgroup.

Our previous enrolment secretary Kirsty McIntyre has now agreed to be the administrator for the playgroup. She will continue to handle enrolment as well as managing the Rota, email enquiries, the website and general administration.

Thank you

Once again we would like to thank Maggie, Bridget and Sarah for all their efforts this year in ensuring that the playgroup continues to run smoothly since our manager has been on sick leave. A special thanks to Megan, one of our volunteers, for all the extra time she



Important Dates

End of Term

Friday 9th October 2015

Start of next Term

Wednesday 21st October
2015



has given to the playgroup. Also thank you to the 2014/2015 committee who stayed on in their roles to assist in the operation of playgroup. We are very grateful to everyone involved as the playgroup may not be running if it wasn't for the help we received. So, thank you!

AGM

The AGM was held on Wednesday 23rd September. Unfortunately, the turnout for this event was poor although it is understood that there were other local events which fell on the same date. We hope this event will be more successful next year. Thank you to all the people who attended and for your assistance in filling roles within the committee. Minutes of the AGM have been circulated to all parents.

Committee

Nile Grove Playgroup is a charity and as such we require a management committee to operate. This is a legal requirement. Many of you will have been approached by Kirsty, our administrator, or a member of staff and asked to join the committee. Thank you to all parents who have agreed to sign up for a role. This is appreciated and if anyone else wishes to take on a role please do let us know. The position of chairperson is vacant and requires filling ASAP. If you think you could help, please speak to Kirsty ASAP. New members are listed below.

Chairperson	Vacant
Treasurer	Suzanne Burt
Secretary	Kathleen Wynn
Newsletter secretary	Angela Simms
Health & Safety officer	Kathleen Wynn
Advertising convener	Jennifer Goldie
Fundraising (Christmas hamper)	Victoria Melville Claire Bell
Fundraising (Obstacle course)	Sarah McRae Emma Ahlqvist

Ordinary members	Gill Cruickshank Kirsty Forgan Jo Graham
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Website

Some of you may be aware that we have had a long standing problem with the updating of the website and had appealed at the AGM for someone to come forward and convert our current website into a much easier format to allow Kirsty to update regularly. We would like to say a huge thank you to Victoria Melville, who has introduced us to Roslin Design and has generously met the cost of this conversion as a donation to playgroup. We are so grateful for this and very excited to see our new website. Kirsty is currently working with Roslin Design to make this happen ASAP and you will all get the chance to view this when it goes live.

This term....

During this term we have welcomed many new children to playgroup. The children have enjoyed learning about autumn and have created some lovely artwork surrounding this theme. The children have enjoyed the new 'magic sand', which was donated to the playgroup from Erica Cairney (Thank you), giving them a new sensory experience. We explored the well-known children's book Stick man and made our very own stick men to take home. There has been plenty of outdoor play and healthy snacks. Thank you to everyone who participated in our feedback exercise. Vanessa is currently working through all your comments and suggestions and we will respond to these in due course. A thoroughly enjoyable term for all.

Next term...

As we head towards Christmas we will have our first fundraising event – the Christmas hampers. There will also be a Christmas party for the children at the end of term. The date will be confirmed in the next issue. There will be many exciting activities next term and if you have any suggestions please let us know.

Fees

Thank you to everyone for paying your fees so promptly. As we are a small charity, it is really important that we can gather these in quickly to allow us to meet our regular costs, including rent and staff salaries.

Other ways you can support Playgroup

Nile Grove receives no State funding and to keep running we rely upon regular voluntary giving by parents for additional costs that are not covered by fees, e.g. new toys, art resources.

- You can make a donation using our BT MY Donate page. We ask that everyone donates £20 per term(or £60 a year), or as much as they are able. Donating online is the best way to give to Playgroup as we can automatically recover the tax through Giftaid, allowing us to raise an extra 28p for every £1 you donate. If you are not currently a UK tax payer, please consider asking any tax payer in your household to make the donation. To donate, go to www.nilegroveplaygroup.co.uk, then click on Make a Donation in the left hand menu. This will take you to our BT My Donate page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/nilegrovecommunityplaygroup> Click on Donate Now on the right hand side and fill in the two-page online form.
- If you would prefer to do so, you can also donate in cash or by cheque (made out to Nile Grove Community Playgroup) and leave this in the Donations box on the desk at Playgroup.
- Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of your favourite online stores including Argos, Next, Debenhams, John Lewis, Toys R Us, HMV and over 2000 others. Just use the links on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, we will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It's completely FREE and you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts exclusive to easyfundraising. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ngcp> and select Nile Grove Community Playgroup - Edinburgh when you register.

Did you know you can pay for Playgroup using Childcare Vouchers?

If you would like to pay your playgroup fees using childcare vouchers please see our notice board for more information or contact Vanessa. Childcare vouchers are a government scheme operated through employers that allow you to pay for childcare from your PRE-tax salary.

Rota Duty

Thank you to everyone who completed their rota duties this term and to everyone who has put their name down for next term. If you have not put your name down for next term already, you will be allocated days to be on duty. If these do not suit, it is your responsibility to swap them with another parent. Please remember to take a note of when you are signed up for duty.