



**Footsteps
News and Information
30th November 2017**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just a little note about what is happening in playgroup in the run up to Christmas.

FUNDRAISING - WELLY WADDLE

All children are invited to take part in our 'Welly Waddles' to explore the changing outside environment now the frost has arrived. The children will explore; ice, fallen twigs, leaves, acorns and anything else they can find (including dinosaur footprints and dinosaurs) to raise funds so we can buy some new sturdy bikes for our outside area, great for strengthening muscles through physical activity. We have already started the 'waddles' and some of the children have been full of excitement in expressing what they found. Please may I ask that all sponsor forms are returned some time during next week. Thank you for your kind donations.

WINTER CLOTHING

Due to the change in weather and some very cold spells, please can you make sure your child is dressed appropriate for the weather and has warm clothing on when they come to Footsteps as the children have the choice to play inside and outside on a daily basis. Thank you.

Kindly name coats, hats, gloves, wellies, light weight hoodies, cardigans for indoors and a change of clothes in a named bag which can be kept on their peg including socks and underwear is always a good idea. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS 'SING A LONG'

MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2017- 9.00AM AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, RADCLIFFE

Our Christmas 'sing a long' for the children will take part during our celebratory Christingle session over at our church this year. We have been invited by Rev. Jo McKee, our Vicar who is familiar to lots of our children and she is looking forward to meeting you all too. If you are able to join us, this will be a lovely opportunity for you to take part in the 'Light of the World' activity and getting creative decorating an orange with your child.

Children are invited to wear nativity costumes and these can be homemade should you be feeling creative. Just a tea-towel headscarf or pillowcase tunic with tinsel around the waist or neck but please don't go to any expense as we do have some costumes the children can wear.

The children have started to learn the Christmas story and songs and will enjoy singing them along with parents/carers/aunties during this session.

Cont/d...

STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

We hope you are able to join us at one of the sessions, where you will gain an insight of the learning that takes place at Footsteps. We will be holding stay and play sessions during the morning and afternoon sessions on both Monday 11th and Thursday 14th December 2017. On Monday, those children who normally attend Footsteps will be safely escorted back to Footsteps by the Aunties and parents/carers to continue their Christmas activities until 12 noon.

Craft opportunities - We know that parents/carers all like their children to make things to bring home but some children may just like to dress up as a penguin and not actually create a picture of one! We demonstrate an activity to the children and role model the language, i.e. warm feathers, orange beak and cold weather and the resources are freely accessible for the children to create their own pictures in their own time. This shows their creativity through exploration and imagination. The key message is - It is not always about the end product - it is about the process that has taken place within the activity itself.

MEET WITH YOUR CHILD'S KEY WORKER

These stay and play visits will also give you an opportunity to look at your own child's learning and development file which supports the on-line Tapestry version. As you know, we appreciate your weekly input on Tapestry to help us plan for your child's next steps so please let us know if you need your password resetting. We would be grateful to receive your honest feedback on the evaluation sheet at the end of your visit. Please let us know as soon as possible which day you can attend and we will put your name in the diary (Monday 11th or Thursday 14th December). Thank you.

RAFFLE

We are hoping to have a Christmas Hamper to raffle and would be very grateful to receive any donations of raffle prizes, large or small and food/drink items for the hamper. Tickets will be on sale during the stay and play sessions and at home times. Winners will be notified by Tuesday 19th December. All proceeds go towards the children's Christmas party present! If you would like to donate, please could you bring items in as soon as possible. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas parties are on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December. The children attend their normal playgroup sessions, however, we know some of the children are not in on these two days. Please let me know if your child is able to attend on the 18th or 19th instead. We are looking forward to a visit from **Father Christmas** during the parties but before he arrives we will be having lots of games and prizes - a bit of a disco - fun - and lots to eat!

Cont/d...3

PARTY PLANNERS (FOOD LIST)

These will be available from tomorrow for people to add their names to if you are able to contribute to the children's party. You can also take a look at the attached food list and email me to let me know what you can donate it that is easier. Thank you.

Footsteps will close for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 19th of December at 3.35pm and re-open on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 9am.

CHRISTMAS POST BOX

There will be a little Christmas Post Box near our Christmas tree from Monday 4th December, where the children can post their Christmas cards.

This is, of course, your choice, but please don't feel obliged to send every child at Footsteps a Christmas card. One card to 'All at Footsteps' would be lovely and can be displayed near our tree. These cards will be read out or given out at the end of the session. If you do want every child to receive a card and need a list of children, please ask your child's key worker.

BAD WEATHER NOTICE

We will only shut after we have taken into account the safety of opening the setting on the day, how many staff are able to travel and if the Footsteps can be sufficiently heated! We will endeavour to send a closure **email** to all parents on the morning, as early as possible.

HEALTH INFORMATION

This is definitely the season for illness - colds, flu and stomach bugs! Please keep your child off playgroup for 48 hours from the last bout if it is sickness and diarrhoea. This is a precaution against spreading to other children and staff.

Reminder to parents, it is our policy not to administer prescription drugs or general over the counter medication to children unless they are part of an agreed care plan eg. asthma pumps, insulin, epi-pen etc. and the medication book has been signed by the parent/carer.

Colds and runny noses are never ending and are fine at pre-school - we have plenty of tissues and we encourage children to cover mouths and wash their hands after blowing their noses. **Please do not send child in if they have a temperature** or if you are having to dose with paracetamol before sessions (this should only be used to lower temperature) or if your child is generally unwell.

The Aunties hope you all enjoy the festive season spending time with your families.

Many thanks

Karen Ramsay
Footsteps Manager

Christmas Party Planner - THANK YOU!

DATES: Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th December

	Child's name	Child's name
Cheese spread		
Jam		
Loaf of brown bread		
Grapes		
Strawberries		
Mild cheddar cheese block		
Quavers		
Mini sausage rolls		
Wotsits		
Jaffa cakes		
Cakes or iced buns		
Orange cordial		
Blackcurrant cordial		